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Japan

Farm Minister Leaves for U.S., Europe for Talks

OW0812051392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0415 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu left Tuesday for Washington, the first leg of a trip to two continents ahead of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Tanabu during his four-day trip also will go to Europe to state Japan's position on opening up its rice market.

He is tentatively slated to meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in Washington, and Ray MacSharry, commissioner for agriculture of the European Community (EC) commission, in Brussels.

Tanabu is expected to restate Japan's call to exclude its rice import ban from a proposal to convert nontarrif trade barriers to tariffs in a draft agreement for the Uruguay Round talks.

While negotiators at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are resuming negotiations for the six-year-old Uruguay Round, Japan has been under increasing pressure to open its rice market.

Before leaving Tokyo, Tanabu met officials of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) concerned with the rice issue, and said, "I will do my best to obtain understanding (from world trade negotiators) about Japan's stance to keep the current policy (of opposing the across-the-board tariffication proposal)."

The LDP invited Tanabu to a meeting in order to encourage him and two other LDP officials—Kosuke Hori and Taichiro Okawara—who are visiting Geneva for the same purpose.

Hori said he will seek "the best direction" to maintain food security for Japan.

Tokyo Considers Scrapping Some Metals Tariffs

OW0812135692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Japan is considering eliminating its tariffs on nonferrous metals on a reciprocal basis during negotiations on market access as part of the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks, government sources said Tuesday.

Under pressure from the United States and other negotiating nations, Japan will scrap its tariffs on copper metals and other nonferrous metals as part the effort to bring the round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to a conclusion this year, the sources said.

Japan also will consider cutting some of its high tariffs on leather goods and chemicals, depending on progress in negotiations on attacking high U.S. duties on textile products, they said.

During the market access talks, Japan has already presented its plans to reduce tariffs on some 6,500 industrial products and to scrap tariffs on about 1,000 goods.

The United States and European Community, however, have urged Japan to remove tariffs reciprocally not only on nonferrous metals but also on wood products, the sources said.

They have also called on Japan to sharply lower duties on processed farm products, as well as on leather goods and chemicals, they said.

Nonferrous metals for which tariffs may be scrapped are ingots to be processed, including metals widely used for industrial purposes, such as copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, nickel and manganese, the sources said.

Japan's committed tariff rate on copper is 5.8 percent, but it has effectively fallen to 4.8 percent, they said.

The committed specific duty on nickel is 81 yen per kilogram, while the effective rate is 11.7 yen per kilogram, they said.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry attributed Japan's high tariffs on nonferrous metals to costly domestic mines, which have high labor costs, electricity charges, and costs for pollution countermeasures such as waste water disposal.

The government has so far offered a comprehensive 33 percent cut in tariffs, but rejects the idea of totally removing duties, the sources said.

Japan restricts imports of leather goods like shoes by imposing a 60 percent tariff on imports beyond fixed quotas. The government proposed cutting the tariff to 40 percent, they said.

The U.S. and EC, however, have said strongly the proposed cut was insufficient, they said.

Therefore, the government is considering reducing duties on other products like chemicals, depending on progress in negotiations on the high U.S. tariffs on textiles and the EC's tariffs on electronic equipment, they said.

Tokyo, U.S. Officials Discuss Drug Cooperation

OW0812052692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Japanese and U.S. officials responsible for drug control met Tuesday for their first joint conference on cooperation in combating the illegal drug trade.

Yasumitsu Kiuchi, director general of Japan's National Police Agency, and the head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration [Agency], Robert Bonner, are among those attending the meeting.

In opening remarks to the conference at the Hanzomon Kaikan Hall in Tokyo, Kiuchi said that as drug consumer nations, Japan and the United States share an interest in drug enforcement.

"There are lots of problems where both countries ought to cooperate," Kiuchi said.

Cooperation between the two countries led to the apprehension in August of a Colombian ring using small items of international cargo to smuggle cocaine into Japan. Information from the U.S. made their arrest possible, Japanese officials said.

Much of the Central and South American cocaine entering Japan comes via the U.S., while there are many cases of high-grade heroin, known as "China white," entering the U.S. after passing through Japan, the officials said.

Recent evidence of links between Colombian cocaine cartels and Japanese gangsters makes cooperation between U.S. and Japanese law enforcement agencies even more urgent, they said.

Aircraft Statistics, Units on Kadena Air Base

OW0812114092 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 7 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 3

[By Political and Economic News Department reporter Tomohiro Yara]

[Text] After the conclusion of the cold war, U.S. Forces stationed on Kadena Air Base [KAB] became more compact and efficient as the result of a reorganization. In October 1991, divisions on KAB were merged into the United States' first composite air wing.

Following the reorganization, the number of F-15 fighter planes—the noisiest planes at Kadena—will be reduced by 18 by the end of this year—54 will remain. In addition to the fighter planes, the U.S. Air Force [USAF] on Okinawa will also have 13 KC-135R tankers and two E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System [AWACS] planes; they will conduct daily exercises from the base. Also, various aircraft will occasionaly arrive at KAB from U.S. bases in the United States, Guam, South Korea, Japan, and other places. The U.S. Navy has five P-3C Orions on Okinawa.

The new composite air wing has concentrated control over all fighters, tankers, and AWACS's. They used to be placed under separate commands. (The KAB Press Section noted that) the USAF reorganization is intended not only for downsizing the forces to cope with defense budget cuts, but also to make the most of lessons obtained from the Gulf war. Following the founding of the 18th Wing, KAB has obtained independent control of three different types of airplanes, and this improved KAB's mobility and training programs.

In June 1991, the USAF withdrew from Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines because of the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo, and 581 troops from the 353d Special Operations Wing were transferred to KAB, along with their MC-130H "Combat Talon." The 353d wing is in charge of transporting special operations units, as well as night intruder and reconnaissance missions. In a U.S.-South Korea joint excercise in October, the 353d wing conducted operations with South Korean special operations units.

The KAB has stated that its deposition of the 353d wing is a makeshift measure "until the wing finds a new station," but it is still unknown when the wing will leave KAB.

In addition, 150 troops from the 603d Military Aircraft Support Group were recently stationed on KAB. They have seven C-141 transport airplanes to connect KAB with other U.S. bases in Korea, Japan, Guam, and the mainland United States. KAB now has a new function as a logistics base, in addition to its conventional combat-oriented duties.

After the reorganization, the F-15's on KAB will periodically go to Singapore for joint exercises, making the most of the KC-135R tankers. Taking the "temporary transference" of the 353d Special Operations Wing into consideration, it appears that the KAB reorganization was intended to improve capabilities for quickly responding to regional Asian conflicts.

Northern Islands Information Service Begins

OW0712114692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0706 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Kushiro, Hokkaido, Dec. 7 KYODO—A newly established Russian news agency has begun trial transmission service specializing in information from Russian-held islands claimed by Japan.

The information is provided via a Hokkaido-based translator.

KURIL Press, set up by the Kunashiri island-based newspaper NA RUBEZHE, began supplying weekly news from the islands via facsimile on a trial basis to news organizations based in Hokkaido on Sunday.

Regular transmissions will start in January for a subscriber fee of 20,000 yen a month.

Kenji Matsui, who lived on Kunashiri, one of the four disputed islands, for about a year from October 1991 and assisted at the newspaper, will translate the service's news from his home in Nakashibetsu, Hokkaido.

The first trial transmission on Sunday dealt with an appeal from the local fishing industry to Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov urging him to grant the local government body administering the area full rights to distribute fish quotas.

The item said fish catches and the amount of processed fish products are declining in the southern Kuril region because of unlicensed fishing and steep rises in fuel prices.

The former Soviet Union seized the four islands of Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu and the Habomais from Japan at the end of World War II.

Mitsubishi Joins Sakhalin Oil Development Project

OW0812141592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—The major Japanese trading company Mitsubishi Corp. will participate in a Japanese-U.S.-Europe consortium now promoting a feasibility study of an oil and natural gas development off Sakhalin, the consortium announced Tuesday.

Participation by Mitsubishi, a leading developer and importer of liquefied natural gas, will strengthen the consortium technologically in launching the development, consortium officials said.

Mitsubishi also has a close relationship with another new member, the Royal Dutch Shell Group, which became part of the consortium in September, the officials said.

Initially consisting of Mitsui and Co., also a major Japanese trading firm, and two U.S. concerns—McDermott International Inc. and Marathon Oil Co.—the consortium has conducted a feasibility study of two oil fields in Piltun-Astohskoye and Lunskoye, east of Sakhalin, since this April.

It will submit a report on the study to the Russian Government at the end of this year, they said.

The feasibility study is estimated to cost about 30 million dollars, 30 percent of which will be put up by Marathon Oil, 20 percent each by McDermott, the Shell Group, and Mitsui, and 10 percent by Mitsubishi, they said.

Amid speculation that rights to develop the fields will be sold by international tender, the Russian Government's intentions are not clear, the officials said.

Expecting a decision to be made by next spring, the consortium is confident of winning development rights, they said.

The three original companies won the right to conduct the feasibility study of the two fields in January in an international bid.

After the Anglo-Dutch oil giant decided to join the consortium, Mitsui and two U.S. companies proceeded with negotiations with Mitsubishi, they said.

As other Japanese and foreign companies have indicated they want to join, the consortium might grow to more than five companies in the future.

The consortium plans to start developing the Piltun-Astohskoye oil field in 1995 and the Lunskoye gas field around 1999 at a total cost of about 10 billion dollars, they said.

Watanabe Wants Closer Economic Ties With Taiwan

OW0712144392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe on Monday expressed his hope the economic relationship between Japan and Taiwan will deepen further, government officials said.

Watanabe made the remarks at a reception for an economic forum of Japanese and Taiwanese business executives opening in Tokyo Tuesday, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry officials said.

They quoted Watanabe as saying, "the relationship between Japan and Taiwan has become closer for the past 20 years, with Taiwan's economic position attracting worldwide attention. I wish the forum will grow further."

Watanabe will send a congratulatory message to the forum, for the first time as a trade minister, they said.

The international stance toward Taiwan has changed recently, with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills visiting the island as the first cabinet-level U.S. official since 1979, when the United States broke off diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

The ministry started seeking a closer economic relationship with Taiwan by informally sending senior officials there this year, the officials said.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Urges More Investment

OW0812093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky called Tuesday for more Japanese investment in Hungary, said Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said Jeszenszky, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a six-day official visit, made the call in talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Watanabe was quoted as saying the government cannot order the private sector to invest in Hungary, and can only encourage Japanese companies to do so.

He said an important factor would be for Hungary to give Japanese companies the same treatment it gives those of the European community.

In separate talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Jeszenszky elicited a pledge that Japan would consider participating in an exposition to be held in Budapest in 1996.

Officials said Jeszenszky, the first Hungarian foreign minister to visit Japan since 1980, also asked that the two countries conclude an agreement allowing citizens of each nation to visit the the other without visas and that they conclude an air accord.

Watanabe promised to consider the proposals, adding that preliminary negotiations on an air accord are now being considered.

Officials said Watanabe thanked Hungary for supporting the candidacy of Shigeru Oda for another term as a judge on the International Court of Justice.

Jeszenszky was quoted as saying Hungary hopes Oda will support its position in a dispute with neighboring Slovakia which is to be taken before the court in the Hague.

Hungary has charged that Slovakia's diversion of water from the Danube for use in a hydroelectric plant violates international law.

Jeszenszky said Hungary supports Japan's aspirations for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Officials said the two foreign ministers discussed Japan's plan to provide assistance to Hungary, including loans, to improve its environment.

One idea under consideration is a project to tackle pollution problems in southwestern Hungary. Another proposal is the financing of measures to reduce mercury exposure around the site of a state chemical plant in northeast Hungary.

Spokesman on Conditioning Aid to UN for Somalia

OW0812121992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Speaking at a House of Councilors' Cabinet Committee session today, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato discussed Japan's cooperation with the United Nations in carrying out aid activities in Somalia and said: If Japan provides financial assistance on the condition that it must be used for the procurement of gasoline and vehicles, and not for ammunition and weapons, this would undermine the efficiency of the assistance. In this way, the spokesman indicated that the Japanese Government will not attach conditions—that it must not be used for the procurement of ammunition and weapons—to Japan's financial assistance for UN aid activities in Somalia.

Tokyo Said Pressuring UN on Comfort Women Issue

OW0812134692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1323 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—A former U.N. human rights official said Tuesday that Japan is applying political pressure at the United Nations to prevent public discussion of "comfort women" and other war victim compensation issues.

"The Japanese Government has been trying to prevent any further discussions of these matters in the United Nations," Prof. John Humphrey, an author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, told a news conference.

Humphrey in an interview alleged the government has pressured members of the U.N. sub-commission on human rights to drop compensation claims by Asian women forced to have sex with Japanese soldiers during World War II.

"They (Japanese officials) were politicizing and they are the ones that prevented the matter from going forward. Japan is a very strong country with a lot of allies, and this is a quid pro quo," said Humphrey, a former member of subcommission, which he joined in 1966 after 20 years as director of the U.N. human rights division.

The subcommission agreed in a closed meeting last year it could not accept petitions from victims seeking relief for World War II suffering.

No reason was given for the decision. Japan maintains it satisfied reparations demands in postwar treaties.

Masanori Dodo, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's human rights and refugee division said Humphrey's allegations are "completely without any foundation."

"The subcommission is composed of independent experts from other countries, and we are not in a position to put pressure on them," he said.

Humphrey said the subcommission arrived at the decision after rejecting a petition from a group of war veterans from Canada, Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States who alleged they were tortured and abused by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Humphrey is legal adviser to the group which initiated the complaint, the War Amputees of Canada. He was also instrumental in establishing the petition system in 1970.

It is contrary to fundamental law that treaties between governments can be used to prevent individuals from seeking to assert their human rights, Humphrey said.

He said Germany has paid out billions of dollars to compensate individuals who suffered from the holocaust and other Nazi atrocities.

"I am a friend of Japan, and I want to prevent Japan from worsening its image," he said, calling on the Japanese people to pressure their government to compensate aging victims before they die.

Humphrey is in Tokyo to attend an international public hearing on postwar compensation slated for Wednesday. The hearing is backed by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and private citizens' groups.

Summons To Testify Handed to Sagawa in Hospital

OW0512161692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1514 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Kiyoshi Sagawa, founder of the Sagawa Kyubin Group, is not likely to appear before the Diet to testify about the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal due to illness, Diet sources said Saturday.

The budget committee of the House of Councillors decided Thursday to summon former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. as well as Sagawa as sworn witnesses in connection with the scandal.

Takeshita will testify under oath Monday morning about his alleged involvement in the scandal and Watanabe will be questioned by committee members Tuesday afternoon at the Tokyo detention house, according to the sources. Watanabe is being tried by the Tokyo District Court on charges of aggravated breach of trust.

Both Takeshita and Watanabe testified under oath for the House of Representatives last week to clarify their connections with the scandal.

The sources, however, said it is not clear whether Sagawa will report to the panel as requested.

Opposition party sources said the notice to summon Sagawa was handed to his chief doctor at a hospital in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, and his lawyer.

Both ruling and opposition members of the committee suspect Sagawa may not appear before the Diet because he has not replied to the summoning as of Saturday night, according to the sources.

Executive members of the committee will discuss Monday morning what to do if he formally replies he will not testify, the sources said.

Sagawa Declines To Testify

OW0712030392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0149 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—The owner of the Sagawa Kyubin group, Kiyoshi Sagawa, has informed the Diet he will not be able to testify under oath at the Diet or at his hospital bedside about the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal, Diet officials said Monday.

Sagawa, who is reportedly in a hospital in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, sent his reply to the Diet's request to testify to the budget committee of the House of Councillors, along with a doctor's medical certificate, according to the officials.

The upper house budget committee decided last week to summon Sagawa as a sworn witness Tuesday to clarify his alleged involvement in the scandal.

The committee also decided to hear sworn testimony from former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., which was absorbed by the Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin express parcel delivery group.

The executive meeting of the upper house committee will discuss Monday how to handle the summoning of Sagawa in light of his refusal to testify, the officials said.

Opposition Submits Motion for Takeshita To Quit

OW0812024092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0220 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Japan's three major opposition parties on Tuesday jointly submitted to the House of Representatives a resolution calling for former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to resign from the powerful lower chamber over allegations linking him to gangsters.

The Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party submitted the motion to lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi, opposition party officials said.

The resolution is nonbinding, meaning it could not compel Takeshita to resign even if it was passed.

The action came a day after Takeshita reiterated in testimony to a panel of the House of Councillors a denial of his involvement in a money-and-mobster scandal.

JCP Wants Takeshita Indicted for Diet Perjury

OW0812095392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) on Tuesday accused former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of perjury in the Diet over his testimony in a money-and-mobster scandal and said he should be indicted.

The JCP said directors of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, which heard Takeshita's evidence on November 26, should file a formal complaint that could lead to him being indicted.

The JCP accused Takeshita of violating the Diet Testimony Law, alleging he lied under oath on that occasion about his involvement with scandal tainted Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

The JCP charged that Takeshita must have known that Susumi Ishii, the deceased leader of one of Japan's biggest underworld syndicates, was involved in silencing a rightist group's harassment campaign against him while he was jockeying for the presidency of the ruling party.

By winning the position, he automatically became prime minister.

Testifying under oath before the lower house budget committee, Takeshita denied allegations that Ishii was involved in his efforts to head the Liberal Democratic Party in 1987.

The JCP also proposed to the lower house panel that the former president of the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, Hiroyasu Watanabe, be charged for refusing to testify on November 26.

Watanabe refused to answer almost all questions posed by a panel of lower house members at the Tokyo detention house, where he has been held on trial for aggravated breach of trust for causing huge losses to the trucking company.

Under the Diet Testimony Law, sworn witnesses can be slapped with a prison term of three months to 10 years if convicted of lying under oath.

The law also stipulates that those summoned to the Diet to testify face up to one year in prison if they refuse to appear or refuse to take an oath.

Shin Kanemaru Leaves Odawara Hospital 7 Dec

OW0712100992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Yokohama, Dec. 7 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, the fallen former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), left a hospital Monday in Odawara, southwest of Tokyo, where he was admitted for eye surgery on November 16.

Shingo, Kanemaru's second son and secretary, told reporters at Odawara municipal hospital, however, that the 78-year-old former LDP power broker will not return to his home in Tokyo because he must recuperate at another hospital.

Shingo refused to disclose the hospital where his father will be admitted.

Kanemaru was later confirmed to have been transferred to a hospital of Nihon Medical College in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture.

Kanemaru, wearing a kimono, Japanese traditional clothing, was taken to a waiting car in a wheel chair in front of the hospital.

His stay at the hospital was criticized as an attempt to avoid a Diet inquiry into his alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal. [passage omitted]

Ozawa Prepares To Split From Takeshita Faction

OW0612055892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 6 Dec 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Former Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Secretary General Ozawa, who is a member of the LDP's Takeshita faction, gave a lecture today in his constituency in Koromogama, Iwate Prefecture. During the lecture, he said his group will separate from the Takeshita faction in the near future, stressing his intention to promote political reform and other tasks. Ozawa said his group is conducting study sessions to prepare for the 21st century under the leadership of Finance Minister Hata. Meanwhile, he went on to apologize for a series of problems caused by internal conflict within the Takeshita faction.

Ozawa said it is necessary to map out Japan's future course while bravely pursuing reform. He said that although his group is not a majority group now, there are growing concerns over the future of Japan's political system and increasing calls for political reform. He added that he is convinced that these voices represent the trend of the times. In this way, he indicated his group will split from the Takeshita faction in the near future, and he stressed his intention to tackle various issues, including the promotion of political reform.

Official Reports 2-Day Extension to Diet Session

OW0712060192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0540 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—The current extraordinary session of the Diet, which is due to end Tuesday, will be extended for two days to pass a government-proposed supplementary budget, a senior officia' of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) indicated Monday.

Masakuni Murakami, chairman of the LDP's Diet Affairs Committee in the House of Councillors, told a meeting of government and LDP leaders a two-day extension of the Diet session would be enough to pass the supplementary budget.

Murakami said he will enter negotiations with the opposition parties on the extension of the Diet.

The supplementary budget—crucial to stimulating the country's sluggish economy—is pending before the upper house budget committee. Its passage has been delayed by the debate on the Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

The budget, which cleared the House of Representatives last Tuesday, will be implemented after its approval by a plenary session of the upper house.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is reportedly considering reshuffling his cabinet and the LDP leadership immediately after the end of the Diet session.

MITI Vice Minister Opposes Gasoline Tax

OW0712113892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0714 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Japan's Vice Trade Minister on Monday reiterated his ministry's stance to oppose proposed tax increases for gasoline and gas oil.

Especially commenting on an idea for tax hike for gas oil, Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said at a press conference, "there is no need to increase taxes on gas oil as resources for local governments since they already have enough financial resources."

Asked about the idea of restraining emissions of nitrogen oxide from vehicles with diesel engines, Tanahashi said, "neither the Construction Ministry nor Home Affairs Ministry has brought forward such an idea."

Tanahashi indirectly criticized the environment agency, which advocates increased taxes on gas oil as a way of restraining nitrogen oxide emissions.

Hiraiwa Urges Another Pump-Priming Package

OW0812003592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—The government should take another pump-priming package to rev up the economy if needed in fiscal 1993, a powerful business leader said Monday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said, "if the economy fails to improve in the next fiscal year, it may be necessary to adopt a comprehensive package of fiscal, monetary, and tax measures," Hiraiwa said at a press conference.

Referring to the fiscal 1993 budget, Hiraiwa reiterated his opposition, however, to income tax cuts and issuance of debt-covering bonds as a revenue source.

He also ruled out a cut in the official discount rate as suggested by some business leaders. "This is not the time to do it," Hiraiwa said.

MITI Chief Urges Lower Short-Term Prime Rate

OW0812020792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0122 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe said Tuesday he would like to see more of Japan's commercial banks lower their short-term prime lending rate.

Speaking at a regular press conference after the day's cabinet meeting, Watanabe said he welcomes a decision by Sanwa Bank to cut its short-term prime lending rate by 0.2 percentage point to 4.55 percent from Wednesday.

"Such a move is desirable" in terms of stimulating the economy, Watanabe said, adding the other commercial banks should follow suit.

Watanabe made a similar request Monday when he met with Fuji Bank officials.

The short-term prime rate is what banks charge their most creditworthy customers on loans of up to one year.

Turning to the government's economic outlook for the next fiscal year, Watanabe said, "The government should set the nation's economic growth target at an annual 3.5 percent." That is the figure set out in the government's five-year economic plan which stresses improving the quality of life in Japan.

Watanabe said figures like 3.3 percent or 3.4 percent have been mentioned by government officials for the annual economic growth target.

But Japan is expected to make a contribution to world economic growth, he pointed out, adding it is necessary to take measures to sustain growth of over 3.5 percent.

"The Japanese economy has the latent power for such growth," Watanabe said.

MITI Official Welcomes Rate Cut

OW0812142992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—A high-ranking trade official on Tuesday urged banks to lower their short-term prime lending rates further, while welcoming their recent moves to cut the rates.

"The moves are in line with our ministry's repeated requests," said the official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

But the approximate 0.25 percentage point cut is not enough and banks "should make further efforts," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sumitomo, Sakura, and Fuji banks said they would cut their short-term prime lending rates by 0.25 percentage point to 4.5 percent per year, effective Friday, following

Sanwa Bank's move to lower its rate by 0.2 point to 4.55 percent, effective Wednesday.

The official also said that because funds raised through postal savings are not flowing back to the market, the private fund demand-supply situation remains tight, preventing market rates from falling enough.

Higher call money rates, which financial institutions use to raise funds, are also responsible for higher market rates, he said.

The balance of postal savings rose some 20 trillion yen last year, but only about 7 trillion yen flowed back to the market through the government's investment and loan programs, the official said.

The official suggested the need for reviewing ways of managing postal savings and the character of them as a financial product.

Hata Dismisses Call for Interest Rates Cut

OW0812020392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0111 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday rejected growing calls for further monetary easing, saying interest rates are already low.

Hata said the continuous deceleration of money supply growth is not a product of high interest rates, which he regards as relatively low after five reductions in the official discount rate since July 1, 1991.

Hata made the remarks at a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting. There has been strong speculation in financial markets that the Bank of Japan (BOJ) will soon cut the benchmark rate again from the current 3.25 percent to boost the sagging economy.

Reflecting the expectations, the rate on newly issued three-month certificates of deposit (CDs) fell to an all-time low of 3.70 percent on Monday as the overnight unsecured call money rate, which the central bank uses to signal its policy stance, declined to the lowest level since January 1989.

Hata said the economy will start picking up once the 10.7 trillion yen fiscal stimulus package announced in late August is put into effect.

Hata also said the Finance Ministry plans to submit its draft budget for fiscal 1993 in time for cabinet approval on December 26.

The ministry is expected to submit the budget plan on December 21, giving the cabinet five days to endorse it after negotiations with other ministries and agencies about possible cuts or increases in outlays.

Hata also was asked about a news report which said the Finance and Construction Ministries had agreed to revive now-defunct tax incentives for house owners who wish to buy new, higher-priced dwellings by selling their first homes.

He said the Finance Ministry has not yet reached a decision on the matter.

The tax incentives were abolished in 1988 because they were generally viewed as contributing to high land prices.

The Construction Ministry reportedly hopes to resurrect the incentives as a means to stimulate the property market and to boost the economy.

North Korea

ROK Democratic Front Pens Open Letter on South's Nuclear Development

SK0312130592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Dec 92

["Open Letter on Nuclear Arms Development in South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea made public on November 16 an open letter on nuclear arms development in South Korea.

Follows the full text of the letter:

The Joint Declaration on Denuclearization was adopted and effectuated between the South and the North of Korea and its implementation is under concrete discussion. However, South Korea is promoting nuclear arms development, violating the joint declaration.

In South Korea, a huge manpower including nuclear technicians and funds have been expended in the development of nuclear weapons, including extraction of nuclear explosives, production of nuclear bombs and manufacture of nuclear delivery means.

The nuclear arms development in South Korea, along with U.S. nuclear bases, causes another nuclear danger on the Korean peninsula.

But this dreadful situation is still veiled by the extensive fuss about "North Korea's nuclear problem". It is a great apprehension of the world.

The Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea, in an endeavor to secure denuclearization and peace of the Korean peninsula, discloses the truth of anti-national, anti-human development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean Government.

1. Policy of Nuclear Arms Development and its Enforcement

Nuclear arms development is a key policy the successive South Korean military regimes have consistently carried on for the realization of "unification by prevailing over communist North Korea".

Development of nuclear weapons in South Korea, favored by the intensified military fascist rule, was adopted as a policy in the late 1960's, founded in the 1970's and promoted practically in the 1990's through the full-scale stage in the 1980's.

The South Korean Government adopted it as a policy in the late 1960's.

The debate on nuclear weapons development began among top leaders of the military fascist regime in 1965 and was decided as a secret policy of the government in 1969 when former U.S. President Richard Nixon announced the "Guam doctrine".

Pak Chong-hui who usurped the power through a military coup d'etat promoted development of nuclear weapons, revealing his willingness to render every available means to develop nuclear weapons "for national security".

The "long-term plan for research and development of atomic energy" passed through the 172nd session of the Korea Atomic Energy Commission in May 1969 reflected Pak Chong-hui's will. The plan noted, "technical and economic examination of the nuclear fuel cycle will be finished during the third five-year (1972-1976) economic development plan and reprocessing facilities be built during the fourth five-year (1977-1981) economic development plan".

In late 1970 Pak Chong-hui made his secret weapons development committee adopt the "nuclear arms development plan" as a governmental policy.

Having drawn the general blueprint of nuclear arms development in the 1960's, the government invested a huge amount of secret fund in carrying through the nuclear policy on a full scale under the slogan of "independent national defense" in the 1970's.

The gist and ultimate goal of the so-called "independent national defense" was to develop nuclear weapons against North Korea.

Pak Chong-hui formed a working-level group for nuclear weapons development. Pak Chong-hui himself was the chief of the group with senior presidential secretary in charge of the heavy chemical and defense industries O Won-chol as his advisor and minister of science and technology Choe Hyong-sop, Vice-president Chu Chae-yang in charge of special affairs of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)—it was listed as the Korea advanced energy research institute in the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]—and department chief of the Taedok branch of the KAERI Kim Chol as key members. He established research institutes in succession to complete the system for development of nuclear weapons.

The Pak regime sent over 20 brains to European countries for a year long training in nuclear facilities. Besides, it dispatched Chu Chae-yang to France and other nuclear owners to detect the technique of nuclear arms development process. South Korea followed the experiences of a country which developed nuclear bombs by introducing Canadian NRX [expansion unknown] and promoted simultaneously extraction of nuclear explosives, production of nuclear bombs and development of nuke-carrying means.

Since the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise Team Spirit began in 1976, the Pak Chong-hui regime further accelerated development and research of nuclear weapons. Team Spirit is in fact a nuclear war drill.

Thus, South Korea laid down a basic foundation for experimentally producing nuclear weapons, making a bridgehead of nuclear weapons development in the late 1970's. At that time, Pak Chong-hui's entourage proposed secret construction of a nuke factory and Pak replied, "it will be done in no time, so it is no concern of yours. When the nukes are produced, I will give up presidency and work at Yongnam University." The then Minister of Science and Technology Choe hyong-sop confessed, "if President Pak orders, we can make nuclear bombs within one or two years." Pak Chong-hui's daughter Pak Kun-hye said that in those days around the October 26, 1979 incident in which Pak Chong-hui was shot to death, development of missiles was already successful and completion of nuclear weapons was near at hand and the required materials were obtained.

Development of nuclear weapons in South Korea was not frustrated with Pak Chong-hui's death. In the 1980's the Chon Tu-hwan regime promoted it in various and secret ways under the cloak of "home development of nuclear technology."

In May 1981, six months after Chon Tu-hwan took the power, there was a secret meeting at Chongwadae [presidential residence] to resume the temporarily-suspended development of nuclear weapons. A high-ranking nuclear expert demanding anonymity recalled that the meeting decided to complete the nuclear fuel cycle despite many difficulties. He added the meeting agreed that the academic world, laboratories, enterprises and other related bodies should accumulate technique of the nuclear fuel cycle in close combination, and it would be more effective than to promote it noisily. On this basis, atomic energy institutes were mechanically combined into the so-called advanced energy institute and all the processes of nuclear arms development were promoted behind the curtain of "technical development of atomic energy" for "industrial purpose". The Chon Tu-hwan regime further developed it onto an industrialized stage.

The "home development of nuclear technology" of the Chon regime was to have reprocessing facilities for the military purpose and to accumulate the technique of nuclear bombs development under the cloak of "establishment of self-supporting foundation of atomic energy". A report titled "Problem on Control of Spent Nuclear Fuel" the Chon Tu-hwan regime presented to the South Korea- U.S. Atomic Energy Commission in 1982 hinted that a 250-ton-class reprocessing facility would start operation in 1992 and increase to 500 tons in 1995 and 1,000 tons in 2000. By operating the post-irradiation test facilities equipped with all the reprocessing processes in 1987, South Korea built up a basic foundation for extraction of plutonium and production of nuclear bombs.

Since the late 1980's the No Tae-u regime has further expedited nuclear development, while making a great fuss about "nuclear development" of North Korea.

A confidential report the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff presented to the defense minister on August 18, 1989 dwelled upon the necessity to hasten nuclear armament and detailed measures for completing the nuclear weapons development. Former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku, who was denounced by the people for his advocacy for "forestalling attack on North Korean reactor" in April 1991, called on No Tae-u who was going to visit Washington in June that year. He told No that South Korea should have a nuclear option, emphasizing the necessity to have its own nuclear arms. No Tae-u replied, "I have my own idea." No Tae-u meant to escalate the fuss about the North Korean nuclear problem in conformity with Washington's will, and behind the scenes, gradually justify and promote development of nuclear weapons.

The No Tae-u regime declared nuclear absence in South Korea. Practically, however, it hastens nuclear development, contacting with the former Soviet Union for cooperation in nuclear technology and import of the reprocessing technology, high enriched uranium and plutonium under the signboard of the "northern policy".

The South Korean government's nuclear policy has been aimed at development of nuclear weapons, not at peaceful use of atomic energy, and maintained as the keypoint of the "security policy" of the successive military fascist regimes. Development of nuclear weapons in South Korea has come to an undisguised nuclear armament in the 1990s through the policy-shaping stage in the 1960s, experimental development in the 1970s and industrial development in the 1980s.

2. Potentiality and Danger of Nuclear Arms Development

The actual potentiality to develop nuclear weapons and its danger are concentrically manifested in preparedness of nuclear researchers and technicians, accumulation of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities.

South Korea, through persistent acceleration of nuclear development, has already surpassed the level of danger in the above-mentioned three aspects.

15,000 Nuclear Technicians

Nuclear technicians of South Korea numbered 15,000 including 1,500 doctors in 1989. The number was close to 20,000 of France and 16,000 of Britain, the nuclear powers, and surpassed that of Japan, a latent nuclear power.

What matters is that these technicians serve for the development of nuclear weapons, not for peaceful use of atomic energy. They were all enlisted for the development of nuclear weapons, and brains of them have been engaged in study of military science in foreign countries. Having set out the policy of nuclear weapons development, the dictatorial regime formed in the early 1970's a group headed by Minister of Science and Technology Choe Hyong-sop, who was concurrently the first director of the Korea institute of science and technology. The team visited many foreign countries to invite superior technical manpower. The government brought to South Korea dozens of nuclear experts from the United States including Dr. Yi Hwi-so of the U.S. Fermi National Laboratory who was called Benjamin Yi among American nuclear physicists, Chu Chae-yang who was engaged in research of nuclear fuel after majoring in chemical industry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Kim Pyong-ku who was engaged in the Viking project for Mars probe in the ZET propulsion laboratories under the U.S. National Aeronautic and Space Administration from 1972, and Kim Chol who served for Nratick Army Institute in Massachusetts. All the nuclear research institutes and bases in South Korea are led by them who have specialized respective fields of nuclear weapons development. The Atomic Energy Research Institute takes charge of nuclear reprocessing and development of reactors; the Agency for Defense Development (ADD) of the Defense Ministry, the designing of nuclear bombs and development of missiles, and the nuclear development complex, the manufacture of nuclear bombs. These are the mainstays in the development of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The main task of the KAERI [Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute] was to solve scientific and technical problems related to Ponqkoion of high enriched uranium-235 and plutonium-239. The staff of this institute numbers 2,298, and 939 of them are researchers and technicians. The number is next to 2,460 of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute. Director Han Pil-sun of this institute held the post in 1984 through the chief professor of the Physical Department of the Air Force Academy, the 13th project chief of the ADD in 1970 and the president of the Taedok Engineering Center of the KAERI in 1982. He is regarded as a person with strong will to deal with atomic energy for the strategic purpose.

The ADD established in 1970 has taken charge of development of strategic weapons including means of nuclear delivery, introduction of foreign-made weapons and appreciation of weapons. Since December 1991 in particular, the research and development of conventional weapons were transferred to civil defense industrial bodies, so that it can take charge of development of strategic weapons, their technique and synthetic weapon system, that is, the development of middle- and long-range missiles, computerization of nuke order and control systems and the research of communication and information systems. Director Kim Hak-ok of the ADD is a reserve lieutenant general who has long managed the development of weapons ranging from the K-2 rifle to Hyonmu missile as well as the appreciation of imported weapons.

The Korean Nuclear Development Complex established in 1976 is engaged in producing nuclear bombs. The complex founded by Pak Chong-hui with nuclear brains was aiming to develop the technique of nuclear bomb production. For the sake of secrecy, research results were not presented even to the senior officials but directly to Pak Chong-hui when he visited it once or twice a month. Leaders of the complex were Kim Kang-chin who had majored in quantitative analysis of plutonium at Belgonucleaire in Belgium and Pak Hyon-su and Pak Hon-hwi who had specialized in the reprocessing method and research of radioactive substances at the Grenoble Atomic Energy Institute of France.

As seen above, the nuclear technicians of South Korea were recruited for the development of nuclear weapons.

Reserve of Spent Fuel for 1,500 Nuclear Bombs

Now Washington and Seoul are making a fuss about the "danger of nuclear development" by the North, taking issue with the 5,000 kw-class reactor which was built in the end of 1987 for the peaceful purpose in Yongbyon in North Korea. According to South Korean nuclear experts, however, it takes nearly ten years to secure enough plutonium for a Hiroshima-type atomic bomb with the spent fuel from the Yongbyon reactor. Furthermore, North Korea does not have yet a reprocessing facility.

The assertion of Seoul and Washington that North Korea can produce nuclear weapons is quite nonsensical.

But South Korea has reactors No's. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Kori, the pressurized heavy water reactor in Wolsong, reactors No's. 1 and 2 in Uljin and No's. 1 and 2 in Yonggwang, nine in all, as well as three research reactors in operation. Their total generating capacity amounts up to 7.22 million kw. These reactors extract spent fuel containing 480-540 kilograms of plutonium a year. The high- level spent fuel was piled up to 1,140 tons in under-water storages as of 1990, and it is estimated that ten tons of plutonium can be extracted in 1992. The amount is enough to produce 1,500 bombs of Nagasaki-type nuclear bombs of 20 kt-class.

What is more serious is that the spent fuel is reprocessed for military purposes. The horrible nuclear bomb is made of plutonium-239 extracted from spent fuel the South Korean dictatorial regime is now piling up.

Taedok Nuclear Arms Development Complex

Taedok County of Chungchongnam-to Province is located at a pivot linking atomic power plants and munitions companies in seaside areas of Kyongsangnam-to, Kyongsangbuk-to and Chollanam-to Provinces.

Taedok is a comprehensive nuclear arms development zone where there are the KAERI, the Agency for Defense Development (ADD), the Korean Nuclear Fuel Company (KNFC) and many other nuclear research institutes and facilities.

The Korea Multipurpose Research Reactor (K-MRR) in Taedok Nuclear Development Complex is geared to the military purpose.

The K-MRR in Taedok whose construction started in 1987 is a 30,000 kw-class atomic reactor for development of nuclear arms, which was built jointly with the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) at the cost of 80 billion Korean won (about 100 million U.S. dollars). It is now processing spent fuel with a large percentage of plutonium content. It was designed to use both natural and high enriched uranium, and it is more efficient than Canadian NRX which had been once used for the production of atomic bombs.

The post-irradiation test facility, now under operation in Taedok nuclear development complex, is in fact a semi-reprocessing factory. The most important reprocessing technique is to press into hotcell or shield, transport, dismantle, cut, analyze, smelt and separate high-radioactive spent fuel. The post-irradiation test facility is equipped with all these necessary processes. This post-irradiation test facility, which began experimental operation at the end of the 1970s and full operation in 1987, has been expanded to a large one with additional investment of 40 billion won (about 50 million dollars). The K-MRR and the post-irradiation test facility are an inter-related plutonium-reprocessing system. A nuclear fuel factory was built in Taedok in September, 1989, and in neighboring Kongju County a new nuclear fuel factory is to be built till 1996 with 111.2 billion won (about 139 million dollars) on the site of 297,000 square meters.

Today Taedok has been converted to a large-scale nuclear complex similar to Rokasho-Mura Nuclear Development Complex of Japan. Taedok nuclear development complex is literally a pivotal nuclear arms development base of South Korea.

Referring to the possibility of nuclear arms development the South Korean monthly WOLGAN CHOSON in April, 1990, wrote in an article "The Nuclear Game on the Korean Peninsula", "if ordered, the nuclear-related industry, experts and facilities spread in various parts of South Korea will be promptly mobilized to start development of nuclear arms. The multipurpose research reactor will be reconstructed to reprocess plutonium, the operational technique of post-irradiation test facility be used for construction and operation of reprocessing reactors, and the designing technique of nuclear fuel and atomic reactor be applied to design and manufacture of fission bombs."

The nuclear arms development in South Korea is now promoted on the basis of practical possibility added to the government's policy. Herein lies its great danger.

3. Development of Nuclear Arms and Its Gravity.

Production of nuclear weapons in South Korea entered a stage of implementation beyond the potential danger.

The nuke-producing system is a comprehensive system of the processes of the uranium enrichment, plutonium extraction, the design, manufacture and test of nuclear bomb and the development of means of nuclear delivery.

Production of Nuclear Explosive

Enrichment of uranium and extraction of plutonium are major processes for producing nuclear explosive in the nuclear fuel cycle of reprocessing spent fuel through refinement, conversion, enrichment, reconversion, irradiation of uranium, etc. The enriching and reprocessing processes are vital for the development of nuclear weapons. Nuclear development and research in South Korea are focused on the enriching and reprocessing processes.

The South Korean Government has made all efforts to get high enriched uranium.

Enriched from 0.7 percent by mass to 3-4 percent by mass, uranium can be used as nuclear fuel, and to over 80-90 percent by mass, as nuclear explosive. Behind the veil of "home production of nuclear fuel", the South Korean Government developed supplementary facilities and technique necessary for uranium enrichment and began to concentrate investment on laser-enriching method and centrifuge process long ago. From 1984 on, the South Korean Government promoted the basic research to get high enriched uranium on a full scale and thus developed the technique of separating atom with laser in 1988. According to the October issue of the monthly WOLGAN CHOSON in 1991, the South Korean government is pushing ahead with South Korea-Russia joint development of the laser enrichment method, while focusing efforts on study of various equipment for full ability, continued repetition and complete resolution of laser. The South Korean nuclear researchers succeeded in producing the centrifugal separator of 60,000 revolutions per minute, to separate high enriched uranium. Facts are enough to prove that the South Korean government's moves to get the high enriched uranium for the military purpose have already entered the stage of production through technical development.

South Korea has completed the system needed for extraction of plutonium, and it is now under full operation. Plutonium-239 is extracted by the Candu-type heavy water reactor in Wolsong County, the K-MRR and post-irradiation test facility both in Taedok County. The South Korean Government has illegally produced a large quantity of plutonium by covering the supervisory camera and other sorts.

Dissatisfied with this, the South Korean nuclear maniacs are bent on building reprocessing facilities to extract more plutonium. Already in the early 1970's, they got technical data related to the construction of reprocessing facilities through South Korea-France joint planning work, and the suspended construction of the reprocessing factories seem to be resumed on joint development with some nuclear possessors these days. An official of the Korean nuclear fuel company hinted, at an IAEA meeting held in October, 1989, his government's intention to undisguisedly reprocess spent fuel under the cloak of extracting plutonium for the pressurized light water reactor. He added, "from now on, the plutonium-reprocessing facilities will be positively developed for test production at an early date and it will be commercialized between 2007 and 2016".

The South Korean government is importing high enriched uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons, in addition to home production. Once, enriched uranium and plutonium were confiscated in Italy and Switzerland and it gave rise to an international criticism as it was considered to have come from the former Soviet Union. Such the enriched uranium and plutonium were confirmed found to have been secretly shipped into South Korea, too.

South Korea has 30-40 kgs of high enriched uranium and plutonium, enough to produce 3-5 bombs of Hiroshima-type atomic bombs.

Russia asked foreign countries to buy 100 tons of plutonium and 500 tons of enriched uranium separated from her tactical nukes. It stimulated the South Korean government that is eager for manufacturing nuclear weapons. The South Korean daily CHUNGANG ILBO on November 10, 1991 reported, "Russians found a free market, that is, a nuke market. Moscow is the best market for purchasing breeder reactors, enriched uranium and other materials necessary for production of nuclear arms". According to foreign press reports, the South Korean government actively deals with Russia for the purchase of high enriched uranium and plutonium these days. The high enriched uranium is traded at 120,000 dollars per gram.

This movement casts dark shadow on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Development of nuclear weapons

Having accumulated a great quantity of nuclear explosive, South Korea is practically developing nuclear arms. Promotion of the atomic reactor design at home in the 1980s was geared to obtain technical data of atomic bombs from abroad.

The KAERI has accelerated designing of the reactors No's. 3 and 4 in Yonggwang County in cooperation with the U.S. combustion engineering (CE) so as to acquire the technique of nuclear weapons, and the blueprints were sent to Korea Heavy Industries Co. in Changwon industrial estate to manufacture the designed equipment. In the course of the joint project to be finished within this year, the KAERI is to receive over 4,300 pieces of blueprints, patented data, 200-odd leaves of confidential computer programs and codes which are all the core technique essential for manufacturing nuclear bombs.

The nuclear-developing team has bought through a third country the high-speed camera capable of shooting one millionth second to fix the explosion moment of inner blast test, and produced initiating explosive HMX [expansion unknown] by itself, so as to promote the inner blast test.

The supplementary technical problems regarding the production of nuclear arms are now under study at Seoul College of Engineering and other universities or colleges for security of the study, the government strictly guards the selected sections of campuses. Various parts necessary for the production of nuclear arms are manufactured by the munitions companies including Korea Heavy Indusries Co. and some of civilian companies camouflagedly. Despite top secrecy in research and production all aspects of the process is brought to high one by one.

Production of Nuke-Carrying Means

Means of nuclear delivery in South Korea are diverse.

South Korea has already developed 150 km-range guided missiles in 1978 and 180km and 240km-range guided missiles in the 1980's. Now development of medium-and long-range missiles are expedited. The South Korean Army has a large number of nuclear bomb-loadable F-15's and F-16's, 155mm howitzers and 8-inch nuclear capable guns, plus Honest John and other missiles.

Like this, the well-assorted nuclear delivery system is being completed, and it is under continuous operation through regular exercises of nuclear delivery.

Nuclear armament of South Korea is a stern reality, not a possibility of tomorrow. The Institute of Strategic Study of the U.S. National War College noted in a report "The World in 2010" that South Korea could possess 500 nuclear weapons till 2010.

The South Korean Government is expediting nuclear armament behind the curtain of the extensive fuss about North Korea's nuclear problem. Now the world cannot overlook the practical danger of the South Korean nuclear armament.

South Korea, a large nuclear arsenal with more than 1,700 pieces of nuclear arms, is now being converted more and more to a terrible nuclear arsenal owing to the anti-peace nuclear policy of Washington and the Seoul colonial regime. We cannot look with folded arms to the nuclear toadstool sprouting under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

We South Korean people yearning to live in the nuclear-free, peaceful and reunified land should unanimously join in the anti-nuke drive against the fascist Seoul regime's moves for nuclear armament, as well as in the struggle to clear the U.S. nuclear bases and arms out of this land.

The National Democratic Front of South Korea hopes all the peaceloving people in the world keep their steps with the South Korean people in the struggle against Seoul's moves for nuclear armament.

[signed] Central Committee National Democratic Front of S. Korea

[dated] November 16, 1992 Seoul

KCNA Denounces Formation of ROK-U.S. Marine Command

SK0312054492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—The South Korea-U.S. Combined Marine Command (CMC) was activated in Seoul on December 1, according to a radio report from Seoul.

With the creation of the Combined Marine Command, the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) has four army commands including the already-existing Ground Force Command, the Air Force Command and the Navy Command.

The formation of the Combined Marine Command means, in essence, to strengthen the South Korea-U.S. combined forces command and the U.S. prerogative of supreme command over the South Korean puppet army.

This criminal act shows that there is no change in the treacherous attempt of the South Korean authorities to rush headlong against the nation with the backing of the foreign forces.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Chuche as 'Guiding Idea' of WPK

SK0812105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article stresses the chuche idea is the unique guiding idea of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his classical work "On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building" gave proves [as received] on a scientific basis that the chuche idea is the unique guiding idea of the Workers' Party of Korea, the paper says, and goes on:

The chuche idea is the unique guiding idea of the working-class party, above all, because it is the most perfect revolutionary idea that correctly reflects the independent demand of the popular masses and indicates the way of its realisation in an all-round way and because it is a basic guideline for the working-class party of each country to conduct the party building and activities with its own guiding idea independently and creatively.

It is the truth already verified by revolutionary practice that the party can be steadily strengthened and developed and the revolution and construction be successfully carried on when the party building and activities are guided by the chuche idea.

It is because the party building and activities were guided by the chuche idea that the Workers' Party of Korea has hewn the most correct way of the revolutionary party building in the era of independence and firmly defended the banner of revolution without the slightest vacillation even when others underwent the twists and turns.

The history of the building of the WPK shows that only when the working-class party conducts the party building and activities with the chuche idea as a guiding idea can it maintain its revolutionary character and carry on its historical mission successfully.

KCNA Reviews 8 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0812054392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent wreaths to the bier of Kim Pong-ul, alternate member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and general of the Korean People's Army.

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from state leaders of Palestine and Cyprus in reply to his greetings to them on "Day of World's Solidarity With the Palestinian People" and the independence day of Cyprus, say dailies.

According to the press, President Kim Il-song received solidarity messages from foreign countries denouncing the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Papers inform the readers that Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" was brought out in booklet in Greece.

It is reported in papers that Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to units which had contributed to the development of science and technology and the improvement of the people's living standard.

An article of NODONG SINMUN recalls that Comrade Kim Chong-il established a new party life summing up system and has led the party members to be trained in a revolutionary manner through their party life.

The daily conveys what South Korean people said, longing as the beacon of hope for the northern half of the country where the entire people are advancing along the road of socialism, closely rallied around President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

With a meeting of intellectuals at hand, papers deal with the deep political trust and solicitude shown by the party and the leader for the intellectuals.

"Chuche Idea Is the Only Guiding Idea of Our Party" is the title of an article of NODONG SINMUN.

The ex-president of Portugal met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, says the paper.

Printed in dailies is a letter sent by the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification to the U.N. secretary general, requesting his cooperation in the repatriation of Yi In-mo.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing the South Korean military fascist group for letting an armed helicopter infiltrate into the demilitarized zone in the eastern sector of the front, and an article exposing swindles and corruption of the present "democratic liberal party regime".

Conveyed in papers are foreign public voices praising the socialist system of Korea under which the leader, the party and the people are united in one mind.

According to the press, an "Evening of Japan-Korea Art" was held in Tokyo to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Japan-Korea cultural interchange association and the 36th anniversary of the landing of the ship "Granma" and the day of the revolutionary Armed Forces was commemorated in Cuba.

Papers convey worldwide denunciation of Japan's transport of plutonium.

World news of papers includes reports that the Iranian president called for standing against the Western monopoly of media, the state leader of Libya called for Arab unity, the Angolan president urged the anti-government forces to stop their military actions and the prime minister of Bangladesh called for a greater role of the South Asian association for regional cooperation.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article urging the United States and the South Korean authorities to cancel their unreasonable decision to resume the "Team Spirit".

An article of MINJU CHOSON exposes the crimes of Japanese imperialism, the war criminal of the Pacific war.

South Korea

Strong Protest of U.S. Steel Countervailing Duties Expected

SK0512013292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0119 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea will join forces with 20 other countries to protest against the U.S. Government's preliminary decision to impose countervailing duties on them for subsidizing their steel industries.

The U.S. Commerce Department provisionally determined Monday that 12 countries, including Korea, had granted special loans and financial benefits to their steel industries, providing them an unfair advantage in the U.S. steel market. It slapped countervailing tariffs on Korean steel exports ranging from 5.51 percent on hot-rolled sheet to 2.93 percent on galvanized sheet to offset the subsidies.

Korean Trade and Industry Ministry met with reresentatives of the Korea Iron and Steel Association (KISA), Pohang Iron and Steel Co., Dong Kuk Steel Mill Co., and Union Steel Manufacturers Co. Saturday to discuss the matter and to cope with coming U.S. preliminary dumping ruling, the ministry officials said.

The U.S. department will conclude whether 20 countries are selling steel at less than fair price in the U.S. market on Jan. 26. The 20 include Japan and Canada, which avoided the countervailing charges.

If Korea gets a high dumping margin rate in January, its steel exports to the North American country would be virtually devastated, officials said.

Korea will strongly remonstrate against the U.S. ruling during the three-day Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA) negotiations in Geneva on Dec. 9, claiming that the U.S. anti-dumping investigation and countervailing duties would decisively distract the world steel trade flow and entangle the MSA talks, officials said.

Russian Ambassador Denies KAL-007 Remarks

SK0812070692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 8 (YONHAP)—Russian Ambassador Alexandr Panov has denied ever saying that hardliners in Moscow were responsible for the omission of the flight data recorder [FDR] tapes of KAL-007 from among items given to Korean President No Tae- u.

"Neither the ambassador or any staff-member of the Russian Embassy in the Republic of Korea has ever made such remark, in Seoul or in Japan," said a statement issued Tuesday by Lohengrin Eremenko, minister and deputy chief of mission.

Unidentified sources in the Korean Government were reported on Sunday as claiming that Panov, while in Japan last week, had said that hardliners might have hidden the tapes.

Russia had hurriedly proposed an international meeting to investigate the Sept. 1, 1983, shooting down of a Korean airliner to avoid a diplomatic problem, they were reported as saying.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin delivered the black boxes of the plane to President No during his visit to Korea Nov. 18-20, but Seoul found the FDR tapes, which are crucial to determine the cause of the incident, were missing from the boxes.

The embassy statement reiterated the Russian position that it was prepared to give a multilateral commission the original tapes for decoding and analysis.

Delegation To Attend Moscow Meeting on KAL Incident

SK0512030192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a delegation to a meeting of an international commission in Moscow next week to probe the 1983 downing of a Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Hong Sun-yong, Korean ambassador to Russia, will lead the Korean team, comprising officials from the Transportation and Foreign Ministries, a ministry spokesman said. Ham Myong-chol, deputy director-general, Treaties Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, will join the team as the alternative senior delegate. The United States, Japan, Russia and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the investigator of the incident at that time, are also sending delegations.

Korea will mae efforts to have the incident investigated in a fair and objective manner and to get the real facts across to the public as soon as possikle, the spokesman said.

Moscow asked Seoul to take part in the Moscow meeting, slated for Tuesday through Thursday.

Official Predicts Kim Chong-il's Election as Defense Committee Chairman

SK0712003092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0018 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly is expected to elect Kim Chong-il, a son of president Kim Il-song, to chairman of the National Defense Committee at a session scheduled to open on Dec. 11, according to a senior South Korean Government official.

Kim's election would further solidify the hereditary succession of power in North Korea since the junior Kim would take over all top military posts from his father, the official said Sunday, requesting anonymity.

The official pointed out that North Korea has convened the Supreme People's Assembly in December whenever it has had to deal with appointments of important government and party posts in the past.

At the Dec. 11 meeting, Kim Chong-il, who was appointed supreme commander of the North Korean People's Army last year, would be elevated from first vice chairman of the National Defense Committee to chairman, the official said.

North Korea reformed its Constitution in April, eliminating the provision that the state president was to concurrently serve as the supreme commander of the Army. It also upgraded the National Defense Committee to second in the power hierarchy after the president.

Kim Chong-il's election to the National Defense Committee would, therefore, mean that a formal process of his succession has begun, the official said.

The Supreme People's Assembly would fill the presidency of the Central Court, left vacant following the death of Pang Hak-se. There is also a possibility that it would select a new prime minister, whose tenure was set for five years under the reformed Constitution, the official said.

North Korea announced Nov. 29 that it will convene the Supreme People's Assembly for the second time this year on Dec. 11 but did not disclose the reason for it.

Loan Resumption Vulnerable 'If Moscow Is Uncooperative' on KAL Tapes

SK0512080792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0756 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—Resumption of South Korean loans to Russia will be affected if Moscow is uncooperative about turning over the flight data recorder from a South Korean passenger plane downed nine years ago, government sources said Saturday.

A South Korean government delegation will go to Moscow next week to attend the international commission conference on the accident and urge for a speedy investigation, one source said.

But if Russia is uncooperative in the investigation or in handing over the original black box tapes, the loan resumption cannot but be affected, he said. Seoul extended 3 billion U.S. dollar loan to Moscow. The loan stopped after the collapse of Soviet Union, and 1.53 billion dollars remain unpaid.

Korean Air Line (KAL) 007 with 269 people aboard crashed into seas off Sakhalin in 1983 after a Soviet fighter jet shot it down for straying into Soviet airspace.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin brought copied tapes from the cockpit voice recorder when he came to Seoul two weeks ago but refuses to hand over the flight data recorder [FDR] that is critical to explaining why the aircraft went off course.

An international commission among South Korea, Japan, the United States, Russia and the International Civil Aviation Organization is to open in Moscow next week to which Russia said it will give the FDR.

Loans may reopen but will have to be very limited without satisfactory progress in the KAL investigation, the source said.

One alternative would be to ship only the remaining 70 million dollars of export-tied consumer loan left over from last year and hold off this year's entire share, he said.

Loan May Resume After Amendments

SK0512022492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia could clear away the last obstacle to resuming delivery of loans to Moscow by early next year, the Finance Ministry said Saturday. Russia sent a draft contract to the Korea Office of Supply last week for payment of 36.8 million U.S. dollars of interest on 1 billion dollars of bank loans in aluminum ingots from January to June next year. The contract, written by Raznoimport, a state-run trading company and the aluminum supplier, suggests a free on board (FOB) price and Russian jurisdiction over any commercial disputes.

The Office of Supply and the Korea Development Bank, the parties on the Korean side, said that they would ask Raznoimport to amend the contract because it is different from an earlier agreement. Korea wants a cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) price and jurisdiction over commercial disputes.

The Office of Supply is to send a letter of request for modificatins to Russia next week. Sources said that it would take some time for Russia to revise the draft, adding that the contract is expected to be signed after mid-December. Delivery of 330 million dollars in tied loans promised to the Soviet Union could resume after the contract was signed, they said.

The loan dispute had nothing to do with the transfer of the black boxes of KAL 007, shot down by a Soviet fighter in 1983, they said.

Seoul extended a 3 billion-dollar economic aid package to Moscow for 1991-1993, including 1 billion dollars in cash, but stopped delivery after the collapse of the Soviet Union and ensuing problems on interest payments.

YONHAP Notes North's Nuclear Arms Production Capability

SK0512032092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—International concern over North Korea's ability to produce nuclear weapons heightened following a published report that it was able to make more than 200 kilograms of plutonium a year in the 1970's.

Contrary to a general belief, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists said recently, North Korea was already capable of producing 200 kg to 260 kg of weapons-grade plutonium a year in the mid-1970's and 200 kg of plutonium could make about 30 "small-sized" atomic bombs.

In a special article on North Korea's plutonium production, the Bulletin said North Korea reported to the Internatinal Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it extracted "gram-unit" plutonium for the first time in March 1990.

The Bulletin said, however, that North Korea was in fact able to extract laboratory size plutonium in "hot cell," located in Pyongyang, in the 1970's. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists is a U.S. publication often quoted by U.S. and German Government officials as well as IAEA experts.

North Korea is insisting that plutonium it extracted in 1990 was from the damaged nuclear fuel used in the 5-megawatt experimental reactor in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang.

But IAEA experts point out that North Korea is currently capable of processing much larger amounts of nuclear material than it is actually reporting to the IAEA at the radioactive chemistry laboratory in Yongbyon, the Bulletin said.

The experimental reactor in Yongbyon could produce 4 kg to 7 kg of plutonium a year since 1985 but North Korea reported that it cuid not produce that much because of operational problems.

In order to confirm the report, the IAEA wanted to obtain samples of North Korean nuclear fuel but North Korea said it could not exchange nuclear fuel until early 1993. Thus the IAEA was forced to wait until North Korea is ready to provide it with the sample, the Bulletin said.

IAEA Nuclear Inspections in North Experience Difficulty

SK0512023492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is having difficulty confirming the completeness of North Korea's report on its nuclear facilities and materials and has no access to some nuclear materials, IAEA Director-general Hans Blix said Friday.

In a supplementary report for the IAEA board of governors, Blix disclosed that North Korea's nuclear reprocessing facility would not operate for the time being, and the IAEA has installed surveillance and sealing devices in an effort to check it on a regular basis.

The nuclear inspections on the country, Blix said, are still at an initial stage, but the IAEA is faced with a hardship in evaluating the completeness of the first North Korean report on its nuclear facilities and materials because North Korea lacked a sufficient management system for its nuclear materials at the time when North Korea signed the Nuclear Safety Accord with the IAEA.

IAEA inspectors have not been able to examine some of the nuclear materials North Korea has reported to the agency, he disclosed.

Instead, the agency has installed surveillance and sealing devices to watch the materials until the inspectors are given access to them, he said.

An IAEA source said the agency had tried to collect samples of nuclear materials from a 5 megawatt reactor in Yongbyon, near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, in an attempt to find out how much plutonium the country has extracted.

North Korea, however, is claiming that it couldn't permit the inspectors to do the work until early next year due to technical problems, he said.

North Korea will not operate the radioactive chemical laboratory, a nuclear reprocessing facility, in Yongbyon for the time being but is expected to keep building a nuclear waste treatment factory in the complex, Blix added.

Envoy to Vienna Sees More Chances for Nuclear Inspections

SK0412135892 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1235 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The report on the implementation of the inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities, which was submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Secretary General to the Board of Governors, suggests on several occasions that nuclear-related facilities that were not originally disclosed have been discovered. In particular, it contains a strong indication that rather than making these facilities open to the public, a thorough inspection of suspicious facilities will be carried out.

Supporting this is the fact that the IAEA will soon dispatch its fifth investigation team to North Korea. It plans to separately dispatch an IAEA high-ranking official for the inspection of the unreported bases. Moreover, the media has much interest in the results of the nuclear inspection in North Korea but Hans Blix has said that he will adhere to the principle of holding the inspection behind closed doors.

Secretary General Hans Blix also said that he discussed in detail the results of four different inspections with North Korea's Nuclear Industry Minister Choe Hak-kun and said that these talks will aid chances for upcoming inspections. It is interpreted that this is an important part that suggests that a vulnerable point has been found concerning the suspicions of North Korea's nuclear development.

[Video shows ROK envoy to Vienna Yi Si-yong] [Begin Yi recording] North Korea, through the minister of nuclear industry, has shown a very positive response. Therefore, we believe there is the possibility for more nuclear inspections in the future. [end recording]

In the Board of Governors meeting, some 20 member countries, including the ROK, said that the nuclear inspection, which North Korea is calling for, and the issue of the Team Spirit exercise are two separate matters and that the international agreement should be implemented without fail. They also urged North Korea to respond to an early South-North mutual inspection to enhance trust to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Two DPRK Freighters Reportedly Seen in Cambodian Port

SK0812013292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 (YONHAP)—Two North Korean freighters were recently seen in Cambodia's principal port, the Japanese daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Tuesday. The paper quoted sources as saying that the 6,399-ton Yongnamsan- ho and the 2,740-ton Paengmagang-ho were moored in the southern port of Kampong Saom (formerly Sihanoukville).

If true, it would be the first time the Phnom Penh government has allowed a North Korean ship to make call at a Cambodian port since 1987.

The YOMIURI said that the cargo on Yongnamsan-ho included one ton of cement as a present for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Congress. The North Koreans had sent the gift to help strengthen relations with Sihanouk, the paper said.

The Yongnamsanho had been moored in Kompong Som since Oct. 27 with 5,000 tons of cement and was expected to carry back home an equivalent tonnage of scrap iron from wrecked military equipment such as armored personnel carriers, the paper added.

Ministers Predict Emphasized Trade Ties With Clinton Administration

SK0812103892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1002 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will specially accent economic diplomacy with the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton and establish communication lines through first-term congressmen, officials decided Tuesday in an inter-ministerial conference.

A meeting among 15 ministries led by Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok agreed that U.S. policy toward the Korean peninsula will maintain the past line in terms of security, conference sources said. But they anticipated more aggressive trade measures under Clinton and urged for more emphasis on trade and technology diplomacy, they said. An immediate goal is to open communication lines with some 110 first-term U.S. Congressmen to make them aware of South Korea's position on specific issues, according to the sources.

The participants expected Washington will maintain its security commitment to Seoul by keeping its military presence while deterring North Korea's nuclear development.

Police Find 'Proof' of Hyundai UPP Donations

SK0812085892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 8 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration announced Tuesday that it had found proof of donations by the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. to Chong Chu-yong's United People's Party [UPP].

A police spokesman said the company had withdrawn 119 billion won (151 million U.S. dollars) from an account used to receive payment from exports, 900 million won more than was previously thought, and converted 56.1 billion won (71.5 million dollars), 1.1 billion won more than earlier announced, of that money into cash.

A search of the Sinhan Bank's books had uncovered documents detailing how the money was used, and the checks used by the company to transfer the money from account to account, the spokesman said.

Police also found slips detailing how 1.33 billion won was paid to the UPP.

According to the police, the slips say that Hyundai gave 200 million won to the UPP, spent 444 million won to purchase and distribute a women's magazine to UPP district chapters and paid 5.8 million won in expenses to 19 employees to visit their hometowns.

Police uncovered a slip, which at one point says, "24 million won to the Trade and Industry Ministry" and are undertaking an intensive look into the exact use of the money by questioning Chong Yun-ok, the Hyundai accounts clerk who divulged the mishandling of company funds.

The money, police believe, might have been paid as bribes to officials of the ministry.

At the same time, the 5.8 million won paid as expenses might have something to do with a company strategy to send employees to their hometowns to recruit new members for the UPP, the spokesman said.

After analyzing a business diary kept by Chong and a document found in the bank's safe, police estimated that Hyundai had appropriated some 15 billion won in payments for exports in November.

Detectives visited UPP headquarters and the Hyundai Heavy Industries Tuesday morning to deliver warrants demanding that seven party and company officials report for questioning.

Russia's Arbatov Assesses Emerging Post-Cold War Relations

SK0812095192 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 7 Dec 92 p 7

[Interview with Georgiy Arbatov, director of Russia's United States of America and Canada Institute, by Moscow correspondent Yi Ki-tong—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Yi Ki-tong] During Russian President Yeltsin's visit to the ROK, the ROK and Russia signed a memorandum on military cooperation, which will serve as a starting point for military cooperation between the two countries. How will the relations of military cooperation develop?

[Arbatov] The ROK-Russian memorandum on military cooperation symbolizes a departure from the old relations in which the two countries were in hostile relations. When military leaders and warships of the two countries visit each other, military cooperation will be promoted toward bringing an end to the confrontation on the Korean peninsula. Then, the relations between North Korea and Russia will change, of course.

Russian forces based in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula will be reduced, and the U.S. forces in the ROK will be reduced, as well. The two countries will promote military cooperation in preventing unexpected accidents, promoting mutual understanding, and facilitating exchange visits by military delegations.

[Yi] Do you think the new U.S. Administration will massively withdraw U.S. Forces from the ROK?

[Arbatov] The United States' position on this issue is clear, and the new U.S. Administration will confirm this position. The new U.S. Administration will be the first post-Cold War administration. The new administration has different policy priorities from those of the current administration. The new administration will give priority to social issues, economic issues, and infrastructure improvements. Therefore, it will make more positive efforts to reduce military expenditures. The Republican government has decided to reduce the Armed Forces. However, it is clear, the Democratic government will cut the Armed Forces more than the Republican government has planned. The U.S. forces in Japan and the ROK will be no exception. Russia no longer needs to station massive armed forces overseas. We will withdraw all of the forces from overseas.

[Yi] Do you think the U.S. forces will be stationed in Korea even after reunification?

[Arbatov] It depends on the Korean people's will. The ROK has had the U.S. forces stationed in the ROK not because it is afraid of China or Japan but because it is afraid of North Korea, which Russia and China assist. Reunification means that such fears have been brought to an end. It also depends on the reunified Korea's relations with Russia and China. If Korea maintains good-neighbor relations with these two countries, then, it will have no reason to have foreign forces based in the country. Still, this is what the Korean people will decide. The same is true with the U.S. forces in Japan. We will sign a peace agreement with Japan sooner or later. Then, Japan will reassess its security treaty with the United States. Security will be a secondary issue in the future. Rather, issues such as trade disputes will be brought to the fore.

[Yi] How will the relations between Russia and North Korea be reestablished?

[Arbatov] Russia has declared on many occasions that the Russian-North Korean Friendship Treaty, which stipulates Russia's automatic involvement in case of North Korea falls under attack, has become invalid. However, the Russian president's declaration on Russia's position as such is not enough. Such an opinion has been expressed in the declaration. Pertinent legal procedures must be taken in the parliament to revise the treaty. It is up to the parliament to adopt decisions on war and peace. Under Russia's new system, the treaty lacks a legal basis. We are now building very different, though incomplete, social and political mechanisms. The treaty is invalid under our system. An era of ideological confrontation has gone. The parliament will never recognize a treaty that stipulates an automatic involvement in case of war in other countries. I hope that the ROK people will not be too concerned about the treaty.

[Yi] Does Russia have any means to check a possible North Korean invasion against South Korea?

[Arbatov] You are questioning a matter that will hardly happen. Because neither Russia nor China will support North Korea's invasion against South Korea it is needless to discuss Russia's steps against it. e have no legal duty to support North Korea. We will by no means support North Korea. If North Korea invades South Korea we will block weapons from any countries, including Russia, from being introduced into North Korea. We will take all possible measures to end the war at the earliest possible date.

North and South Korea are our important neighboring countries. Therefore, we will do our best to lead the North and the South to hold dialogue. However, the possibility for North Korea to invade South Korea is very low. So, the ROK should not be too sensitive to

North Korea's invasion, because if one side distrusts the other side too much, this will also lead the other side to distrust it and will create a conflict between them.

[Yi] What is your assessment on the possibility of North Korea's nuclear development?

[Arbatov] We do not see that North Korea has nuclear development capability. In view of the relations between the two countries in the past it is likely that Russia provided nuclear technology to North Korea. However, the nuclear technology provided to North Korea in the past was not the know-how needed for producing nuclear weapons. President Yeltsin also stressed this point. Of course, Russia does not now provide any assistance to North Korea.

We should not need to overestimate North Korea's nuclear technology. It is impossible for North Korea to secure sufficient know-how merely by bringing a few technicians to North Korea. Nuclear development requires a certain level of technology and a huge amount of money. Advanced technology is required in the course from extracting uranium to developing nuclear weapon. If a country plans to develop nuclear weapons now it should be ready to suffer greater risk than in the past. In other words, it should join the club of countries that possess nuclear power and should be subjected to surveillance on a continuous basis. It should be ready to suffer even military threat.

Japan can become a nuclear power right now if it wants. However, if Japan becomes a nuclear power, it will be definitely vulnerable. This is also the same with Sweden, Germany, and Italy. These countries do not produce nuclear weapons, because they know that not possessing nuclear weapons is safer. [passage omitted]

[Yi] An unpleasant happening involving the delivery of the black box of the Korean airliner took place when President Yeltsin visited the ROK. What caused such a unpleasant happening?

[Arbatov] It was indeed unfortunate. I think that the Russian government will elaborate soon on how that kind of happening took place. President Yeltsin handed only a copy of cockpit voice record over to the ROK side, excluding the flight data record tape. I personally think that this was caused by "a mistake made by working-level Russian officials" who should have carefully taken care of them. People may presume that someone might have left out the flight data record tape on purpose when packing the box, but I do not think so.

[Yi] However, according to the Russian government's explanation, before Yeltsin's visit to the ROK it had already decided to hand the black box over to the International Civilian Aviation Organization [ICAO], not over to the ROK side.

[Arbatov] It is not Russia's decision to hand all of the data and material on the KAL incident over to ICAO, but is its duty to do so. However, examining what President Yeltsin said before and after his visit to the ROK it is clear that he intended to hand it over to the ROK side, disrgarding the ICAO's regulations, because, otherwise, there is no reason why the Russian Government should not reveal to the ROK people its intention to hand over the original copy to the ICAO and a copy to the ROK side.

Burma

NLD Members Warned To Not Oppose Convention

BK0412080392 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[From the "World News" program]

[Text] According to Burma's opposition circles, some members of Burma's opposition National League for Democracy [NLD] have accused some members of the NLD Central Executive Committee of colluding with the military government in making threats against NLD members who are dissatisfied with the National Convention on the Constitution scheduled to be held in January.

Eight NLD members were summoned last Friday to the Home Ministry, where they were warned by Deputy Home Minister Lieutenant Colonel Than Nyunt not to undermine the national convention. It was reported that when the eight members arrived at the ministry they saw five members of the NLD Central Executive Committee there. The BBC Southeast Asia correspondent, who is currently in Rangoon, reports that the incident clearly indicates the differences between the radical NLD members and the Central Committee led by U Aung Shwe, who had repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to accommodate and implement the demands of the ruling military council.

UN Human Rights Investigator Arrives 7 Dec

BK0712143092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Professor Yozo Yokota, United Nations special investigator for human rights, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. The professor was accompanied by Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission. Professor Yozo Yokota was welcomed at Yangon airport by U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister for foreign affairs; United Nations resident representative Mr. Jehan Raheem; and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister, Delegation Leave for Tour of Vietnam

BK0512142192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] At the invitation of the Vietnamese agriculture minister, Mr. Nguyen Cong Tan, an eight-member Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Major General Myint Aung, agriculture minister, left Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar Airways at 0745 today to study agricultural activities and the export of agricultural products in Vietnam.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon airport by Lieutenant General Chit Swe, minister for forestry affairs; Major General Tin U, secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Major General Mya Thinn, minister for cooperatives; Colonel Than Tun, vice adjutant general; the Vietnamese ambassador to Myanmar; departmental heads and responsible personnel from the Agricultural Ministry; and relatives.

Delegation Leaves for Singapore, Malaysia

BK0712142992 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Prime Minister's Office Minister Brigadier General Lun Maung left Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar Airways today morning for Singapore and Malaysia to hold talks on trade matters and to study palm oil cultivation for two weeks.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon airport by Brig. Gen. Maung Maung, minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries; U Soe Tha, minister for communications, post, and telegraphs; and responsible personnel.

Rebels Surrender at Military Camps 25-26 Nov

BK0612092192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] It has been learned that four privates from Regiment 701 of the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front], a terrorist insurgent organization from the KIA-controlled [Kachin Independence Army] region, after realizing their wrongdoings, have given up their armed struggle and surrendered with their weapons at the local Pyitaung military camp on 26 November.

They are Khin Maung Aye, aged 26, son of U Tun Kyaing who resides in Saray Village, Bamoh Township; Win Tin, aged 22, son of U Tha U, who resides in Kanni Vallage, Bamoh township; Win Naing, aged 20, son of U Kyaw Nyunt, who resides in Hopin Village Tract, Kyargyigwin Village; and Tun Thein, aged 23, son of U Maung Thein who resides in Letpadan Village, Bamoh Township. They surrendered with four American-made submachine guns, 23 magazines of ammunition, and 539 .45 caliber bullets.

Khin Maung Aye, Win Tin, and Win Naing, while they were helping their families in cane and farming businesses, were abducted by Regiment 1-1 of the KIA, a terrorist insurgent organization, and were transferred to the ABSDF, a terrorist insurgent organization. Tun Thein was persuaded by his friends to join the ABSDF. Similarly, Corporal Shuwa from Regiment 6, Company 1 of the KIA, a terrorist insurgent organization, surrendered at Pakan military camp with one AK-47, two magazines, 200 bullets, and one hand grenade on 25 November.

They were warmly welcomed by responsible personnel at various military camps.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir: Social Justice Creates Stability

BK0512072792 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Social justice practiced by Malaysia has created political stability and ensured the high economic growth rates. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said such a practice has also ensured that no race will be left out to become successful. According to him, every one is free to grab opportunities and accumulate wealth legally.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional [National Front] chairman, was speaking at the opening of the 39th MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress] general assembly in Kuala Lumpur today. He said the success in managing the economy is the major achievement by the Barisan Nasional Government—the main factor which contributes to peace and political stability.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir added that the government acknowledges that there is still poverty in the country. However, this is unusual since there are a lot of employment opportunities and the government is compelled to take in foreign workers. He called on the political parties to play the role to encourage Malaysians to grab such opportunities and work hard to eliminate poverty.

Later, speaking to newsmen, the prime minister said that there is no provision and law for anyone to victimize others. The government takes action against those who assaults or commit murders. This is because no one is above the law, not even royalty. The prime minister pointed out the government was reviewing measures to strengthen the law so that no one would be victimized. The government will not remain silent and will protect them. However, police reports should be made. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir made it clear that Malaysians should not be afraid to demand justice. There are laws to protect them and no one should be victimized.

Government To 'Adopt' Bosnian Refugees, POW's

BK0512063092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0627 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 5 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will "adopt" Bosnian refugee camps in the countries neighbouring Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Europe, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Saturday.

He said Malaysia will also bring 100 former Bosnian prisoners of war here to show its full commitment to the Bosnian cause.

Both proposals are not easy to carry out but the time is right to do so, he said at a press conference after receiving Bosnia-Hercegovina's foreign minister, Dr. Haris Silajdzic, at his office here.

Dr. Silajdzic is here on a five-day visit.

Abdullah said the proposals received overwhelming support from the recent Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Jeddah.

Member countries described them as good and practical proposals to help besieged and annihilated Bosnians in the civil war there.

He said with the move Malaysia will be the first OIC member country and South nation to accept Bosnian prisoners on humanitarian grounds.

Commentary Urges Support for Bosnia, UN Action

BK0712130792 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia has stepped both its moral and material support for Bosnia-Hercegovina. At the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] meeting last week, the Malaysian deputy foreign minister urged stronger measures to check Serbian attention [as heard]. Malaysia looks upon the present situation as a dramatic (?war). The so-called ethnic cleansing is a form of genocide identical to that of the Nazis 50 years ago. What is typical of the (?study) is that Serbia appears to want to attack yet another power in the Yugoslav republic namely [word indistinct]. Here, the [word indistinct] prime minister, [name indistinct] should convince the world community of the urgent need to stop Serbian cruelty. With the onslaught of winter, the already ghastly living conditions is getting worse. The Bosnians need food, clothing, shelter and arms to cope with the Serbian onslaught.

The Malaysian community will continue to extend a helping hand to the people of Bosnia. In fact, every schoolboy and schoolgirl in Malaysia is aware of the events in the former Yugoslav republic. More than 100 Bosnian children and their mothers arrived in this country some time ago. They are being looked after in our traditional Malaysian hospitality. Bosnian Foreign Minister, Dr. Haris Silajdzic, who is on a visit to Malaysia, was able to visit the hostel in which the Bosnians are housed. People in the street, women's organizations, and people of all states and the rich, are contributing generously towards the relief of distress in Bosnia. The Malaysian press and the electronic media highlight the events in Bosnia so that Malaysians are well informed of the day-to-day development.

The latest demonstration of Malaysia's concern for the welfare of Bosnia is a decision to adopt a number of refugee camps. This is a clear [words indistinct] understanding among the delegates attending the OIC summit at Jiddah last week. Malaysia is happy to note that there was all-round agreement to put this proposal into effect. There are thousands of Bosnian refugees living in camps in neighboring European countries. It is recognized that they cannot be accepted to be the entire burden of refugee relief simply because of geographical proximity to Bosnia. Also the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have to cope with refugees needs and demands all over the world. And, therefore, Malaysia will also take 100 former Bosnian prisoners of war. This (?cause) may be a further proof of the spontaneous move in which Malaysians are supporting the right of Bosnians to live in dignity.

Malaysia is backing the call for the UN to use force, if necessary, to restore the sovereign rights of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Hopefully, there are some more positive steps being taken seen to assist to Bosnians to decide their own destiny.

Minister: Bosnians Given Only Temporary Shelter

BK0812094092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Bosnians seeking refuge in Malaysia to escape the atrocities in their country will not be allowed to stay permanently. National Unity and Social Development Minister, Datuk Napsiah Omar, said the refugees were being given temporary shelter until the situation returns to normal in Bosnia. She was speaking to reporters in Shah Alam, Selangor.

The minister said the Bosnians were being given education and training to prepare them for their return to their country. More than 100 Bosnians—mostly children—had arrived in Malaysia since last October.

Lao Premier Begins Three-Day Visit 8 Dec

BK0812055492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0402 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 8 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon arrived here Tuesday for talks with his Malaysian counterpart Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and senior officials to promote closer ties between the two countries.

Khamtai was accompanied by a 19-member delegation for the three-day visit during which three agreements would be signed to cement ties between the two countries.

The Laotian leader, who was met on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, was given a traditional welcoming ceremony at Parliament House.

He would later call on the yang di-pertuan agong (the king) and Dr. Mahathir followed by a bilateral meeting between delegations from the two countries at the Prime Minister's Department.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said both countries were expected to sign an air services agreement, an investment guarantee agreement, and an economic, scientific and technical cooperation agreement.

The visit, at the invitation of Dr. Mahathir, was aimed at promoting closer bilateral relations and cooperation, he added.

Accompanying Khamtai are his wife Thongvan Siphadon, Minister in the Council of Ministers Phao Bounnaphon, three vice ministers, and senior government officials.

Laos was granted observer status at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Manila last July and assented to the grouping's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation along with Vietnam, paving the way for the two Indochinese nations to join ASEAN in the future.

Commentary Welcomes UN Somalia Plan

BK0812062892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] It was welcome news that after several months of delay, the United Nations Security Council had passed a unanimous resolution to adopt a multinational military intervention to protect relief shipments to the famine-stricken people in Somalia. An estimated 4.5 million out of the total 7 million population in that shattered country are caught in one of the worst famines in the world this century. The scenes of [word indistinct] have already (?claimed) up to 300,000 lives. (?The towns) of Somalia, especially [placename indistinct] now referred to as the city of dead, is the worst affected with the largest daily toll of about 400 people dying from starvation. It is indeed a pathetic situation even for a most impoverished nation.

The famine in Somalia has been going from bad to worse for some time and started becoming critical since the overthrow of former dictator President Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. Since then, there has been bitter infighting among client rebels led by their respective warlords vying for control of the country. Lawlessness and banditry have become a common day affair. Groups of gunmen cruise the towns and roads of Somalia in heavily armed battle wagons. Such [words indistinct] with nobody in actual command inevitably led to short supplies of foods, medical and other aid.

The United Nations through its various relief agencies deemed it necessary to go to the suffering people's assistance. But it was only in August this year that the operation went into top gear. Nevertheless, their efforts have been disrupted by frequent bandit attacks resulting in the convoys carrying supplies not reaching their intended destination. The gunmen were out to loot the food and other items for their own use. They have killed several guards accompanying the supplies, thus committing the most serious offenses against an international relief operation.

The UN Security Council resolution on military intervention is indeed most timely to save many thousands more from starving to death. Though it is a U.S.-led operation, several other countries, including Britain, France, Italy, and Canada as well as Somalia's own African neighbors, have committed themselves to deploy their troops into this international effort, while Japan has offered monetary aid to the UN force in the operation.

The world community's immediate objective will be to neutralize the warring factions and armed gangs that are hindering the attempt to get humanitarian aid to reach the starving millions. It is the hope of all peace-loving peoples that the UN mission led by the United States will be confined to humanitarian purposes and not be turned into another Desert Storm like that employed in the Gulf war. It should be a peace-making process and bring relief to the suffering. And the UN force should be withdrawn once the situation has been brought under control and a stable leadership is established in Somalia. The UN will then [word indistinct] to have performed its duty and its action will be deemed to have been justified.

Jakarta To Help Fight Anti-Tropical Wood Campaign

BK0412071892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to counter the anti-tropical wood campaign which is being fiercely launched by developed countries. At the ministerial meeting in Kuala Lumpur dealing with forestry, the Indonesian and Malaysian chief delegates underscored the need for the two countries to develop comprehensive forestry cooperation within the South-South framework.

[Indonesian] Forestry Minister Hasyrul Harahap said that the anti-tropical wood campaign launched by the developed countries ostensibly to save the environment was in fact a pretext to protect their business interests. Meanwhile, Datuk Sri Lim Keng Yaik, Malaysian primary industries minister, stressed that South countries should hold a series of meetings to anticipate possible maneuvers by developed countries in the field of forestry.

Singapore

Prime Minister Meets Malaysian Finance Minister

BK0712143292 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The visiting Malaysian finance minister, Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, called on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the Istana [Palace] this afternoon. He had also held talks with the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. Datuk Sri Anwar, who is here for a three-day official visit, at the invitation of his Singapore counterpart, Mr. Richard Hu. Tomorrow, the Malaysian minister will deliver a public lecture entitled: "[Word indistinct] Making Reality, Challenges for the Region." It is organized by the Institute of Policy Studies under the Institute of [word indistinct] Studies.

New Navy Chief Takes Oath

BK0812104592 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Dec 92 p 1

[By Dominic Nathan]

[Excerpt] The chief of the Navy, Commodore Teo Chee Hean resigned from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) yesterday.

Colonel Kwek Siew Jin, the current chief of staff (Naval Staff), has been appointed by the president as the new chief of Navy with effect from today.

It is believed that Cdre. Teo's resignation will be followed by an announcement today that he will run in the Dec. 19 by-election as a People's Action Party candidate for Marine Parade GRC [Group Representation Constituency].

However, the Defence Ministry (Mindef), which announced the change of naval command yesterday, did not say where Cdre. Teo would be moving to.

A change of command parade was held at Pulau Brani Naval Base yesterday where Col. Kwek took the oath as the new navy chief. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Commentary Assesses Peace Accord Implementation

BK0512063792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Undated PRACHEACHON commentary: "How Should We Move Forward in Implementing the Peace Agreement?"]

[Text] In a recent message from His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the Supreme National Council, to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], it was clearly specified that despite serious obstacles in the transitional period of the Paris peace agreement's implementation, the State of Cambodia [SOC] is still resolutely committed to this peace process.

H.E. Hun Sen's emphasis is another show of the goodwill stance of the SOC, which in the past, as in the present, has been making efforts to correctly and fully implement the peace agreement. Our efforts to correctly implement the agreement are clearly aimed at peace and the development of the country and nation. Measures to ensure a neutral political atmosphere during the transitional period in order to facilitate the process toward general, free, and correct elections have been carried out by the SOC in accordance with the agreement.

We have put staff of institutions and administrative offices who could have direct influence on the election results under the direct control of the United Nations. Apart from this, we have opened the door to various political parties to operate in the territory under our control. We have also cantoned and demobilized a number of troops in accordance with the agreement. However, ensuring a neutral political atmosphere in such a situation requires the sincere cooperation of all sides; this cannot materialize if the goodwill and efforts come only from the SOC side. What we have done was carried it out at a time when other parties—some have and some other others have not done so; one party, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, to be direct—have not at all implemented all the aspects of the agreement. To this day, these parties continue to maintain their structures, particularly the military structures. These structures have neither been dissolved nor been subjected to UNTAC control.

Taking advantage of the opportunity when the door is open to various parties to operate in areas under the SOC control, these people not only have successively violated the cease-fire causing serious consequences for the transitional period and the implementation of the agreement, but have also carried out many subversive activities which destabilize the people's lives. Cambodians continue to be successively massacred. These people have put the blame for what they did on the SOC, for example political assassinations.

However, despite being in such a difficult and complicated situation, the SOC always remains resolute in the implementation of the peace agreement. We realize that if the agreement is allowed to fail, all of us would be thrown into the Khmer Rouge game. So, how should we proceed in implementing the Paris peace agreement? If no measures are taken against the Khmer Rouge, the latter will, through military means, harass the election. From now to the election to set up a new government, the Khmer Rouge will not let us be in peace; they will intensify guerrilla warfare and launch a large-scale offensive to widen controlled zones and more acutely force into a defensive position those who have implemented the agreement 100 percent.

Peacekeepers To Use Newly Reopened Airstrip

BK0512100892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0842 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Thbeng Meanchey, Cambodia, Dec 5 (AFP)—The Thbeng Meanchey airstrip in Cambodia's northern Vihear Province was reclaimed, after 10 years, from the jungle when a U.N. Transall C-160 transport plane touched down Saturday.

For a month, 30 men of the 17th Parachute Regiment from Tarbes, France, and fifty Cambodians on a salary of one dollar a day have cleared mines, cut trees and prepared the ground for this 1,400-metre (4,620-foot) laterite airstrip.

The last planes to touch down here were Soviet Antonov 24s in 1983 when the country was under Vietnamese control, according to a U.N. peacekeeper.

Thbeng Meanchey, located in territory controlled by the Phnom Penh government, is surrounded by rugged upland, from which the Khmer Rouge regularly fire mortars "to remind the local population of their existence," the peacekeeper said.

"The airstrip will be used from next week for the redeployment in this zone of a Pakistani infantry battalion," Colonel Yannick Guillou, commander of the French contingent in Cambodia, told journalists.

The Pakistanis are to move east to Thbeng Meanchey as part of a large-scale redeployment of U.N. infantry battalions after lack of cooperation from the Khmer Rouge caused a hiatus in the disarmament and cantonment of Cambodia's four rival factions.

In the run up to the May elections, the U.N. infantry are to be responsible for the protection of electoral teams travelling the country to inform and register future electors.

The zones of operation of the 12 U.N. battalions, some of which straddle several provinces, have been redrawn to square up with the administrative map of the country.

The goal of the current redeployment is to avoid forcing electoral teams to change their military escort every time they move within the same province, according to a Western military source.

Khieu Samphan Not To Attend 8 Dec SNC Meeting

BK0712033592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Letter from Khieu Samphan to UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi]

[Text] To His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Phnom Penh.

Your Excellency:

1. His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], is ill and will not be able to attend the coming SNC meeting on 8 December. On our part, I would like to inform your excellency with regret that I also will not be able to attend the upcoming SNC meeting because I am very busy.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to note some things about your agenda.

As previously, your current agenda gives priority to the secondary issues instead of the important issues of the Paris agreement, which have been turned into secondary issues on the agenda.

The important clauses of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement are:

First: The SNC's role as the legitimate and sole source of power during the transitional period.

Second: The supervision of the total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn.

Third: The control of five important ministries and sectors of all Cambodian factions, particularly the Phnom Penh faction, which has been installed by the Yuon [Vietnamese] for carrying out their acts of aggression and occupation against Cambodia.

These important issues have not been put on the agenda, as if they have all been settled.

We would like to raise this question: Has the UNTAC taken control of the five ministries of the Phnom Penh faction?

It is clear to all that the five ministries of the Phnom Penh faction are still functioning freely without any supervision or control by the UNTAC. This is why the so-called ministers of the Phnom Penh faction from these five ministries were always received as ministers wherever they went because the hosts did not know what else they should do. They wanted to get in touch with the SNC, but the SNC has not yet had any role to play. Worse still, the UNTAC has not yet conducted any verification of the National Security Ministry. National and international public opinion is very worried because the military police forces of the Phnom Penh faction backed by the Yuon are committing, both openly and secretly, terrorist acts against the other factions and parties in a most cruel manner throughout the country.

Foreign news agencies have clearly exposed this situation and have even written that the other parties have said that the Yuon have registered for the election but that the representatives of these parties dared not say a word. Those who dared to make any protest were either killed or put in grave danger. In such a situation, how can the second phase be carried out? How can the election be held?

Everyone has said that the situation has become more complicated. How can a neutral political atmosphere be created without the UNTAC taking control of the five ministries, particularly the Security Ministry?

The reports by the committees in charge of natural resources and restoration and the reconstruction of the national economy are only paper work. What is the use of these reports if the UNTAC does not control and take over the five ministries? Having refused to really cooperate with the SNC, how can the UNTAC control and take over the five ministries?

To hold the general elections or the election of the head of state or the president, there must be clear conditions, as defined in the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. To speak only about the elections and about creating a neutral political atmosphere and respects for human rights is tantamount to putting the ox-carts before the oxen. Such carts cannot move forward. Worse still, to hold the meeting just for the purpose of condemning the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]—which has done nothing wrong and has only been calling for the correct implementation of the Paris agreement, that is, calling for the correct arrangement of the ox-carts so that the oxen pull the carts forward—means that no problems can be solved. On the contrary, it will only deepen the contradiction.

Cambodia's natural resources in such areas as Ratanakiri, Mondolkiri, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu, and Koh Kong, such as the fish in Tonle Sap Lake and other rivers, have all been robbed by the Yuon aggressors in the past 14 years. The UNTAC has not conducted any verification nor carried out any punishment against them. The UNTAC is trying only to control Democratic Kampuchea [DK], which is an important force that is struggling against the Yuon aggressors and annexationists in order to defend the nation, territory, and natural resources. In so doing, does the UNTAC take sides with any faction or not?

3. I would like to inform your excellency that in the provinces, some UNTAC members are biased. Some members are taking the side of the puppets and the Yuon. Some of them enter our zone, together with the puppets and the Yuon, acting as the shield for the Yuon and their puppets so that they can attack our DK members, as in Battambang, Pursat, Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Kampot, and Kompong Speu. The UNTAC members did not go to conduct observations or supervision but to act as a shield for the Yuon aggressors and their puppets so that they could attack the resistance forces. This is a dangerous action. When we fought back in resistance to the Yuon aggressors and their puppets, the UNTAC members made accusations against us, as was the case in Kompong Thom.

The PDK still resolutely supports and respects the Paris agreement in its entirety, including the points which say:

1) The SNC shall play a role as a legitimate organization and the sole source of power in Cambodia, headed by the prince, who conducts his role as the chairman without any form of pressure.

2) The UNTAC and the SNC shall jointly supervise the withdrawal of all categories of Yuon forces from Cambodia.

3) The UNTAC and SNC shall jointly supervise and control five ministries.

Only after these three points are fulfilled can the UNTAC and SNC play their genuine role according to the Paris agreement, that is:

1. to supervise the total withdrawal of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia;

2. to supervise the disarming of the four Cambodian factions;

3. to create a genuine atmosphere of security.

Our PDK adheres to a clear stand which is in line with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. To punish the DK is tantamount to punishing the one who is calling for the implementation of the Paris agreement. As a matter of fact, punishment should be taken against those who do not implement the Paris agreement, namely, the Yuon aggressors and their puppets and Mr. Akashi himself.

It is imperative to clearly check and see who has and who has not implemented the Paris agreement.

Please, your excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Dated] 6 December 1992
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, head of the PDK and member of the SNC.

Sihanouk, Ranariddh Skip 8 Dec SNC Meeting

BK0812052892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 8 (AFP)—The head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, convened a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on Tuesday, but the key players in Cambodian politics failed to show up.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who had been scheduled to return to preside over the meeting, was still in Beijing. Diplomats said he was depressed about the impasse in implementing the Cambodian peace plan, and was also suffering from an eye problem.

His son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who heads the FUNCINPEC party, also did not attend. Nor did Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan.

The Khmer Rouge leader wrote to Akashi on Monday saying he had more important things to do than to attend an SNC meeting that took up "only matters of minor importance and obviously avoids having the essential problems of implementing the Paris agreements examined."

The Phnom Penh government had wanted the SNC to adopt a moratorium on gem mining with a view to shaving the profits earned by the Khmer Rouge, who are actively engaged in mining along Cambodia's western border with Thailand.

But no binding decisions could be taken without the presence of the council's key members, UN officials said. The SNC, which groups Cambodia's four previously warring factions under UN supervision, was also to discuss constitutional and election issues.

Another SNC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, but Prince Sihanouk is not expected to be back in time.

Akashi had arranged the two dates with Prince Sihanouk at the last SNC meeting in Beijing last month, which ended in failure as the Khmer Rouge continued to demand more political power through the SNC and verification of the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.

Hanoi claims all its forces withdrew from Cambodia in 1989, a decade after it had invaded its neighbor, ousted the Khmer Rouge, and installed the Phnom Penh government.

Illness To Delay Sihanouk's Return to Cambodia

HK0812104092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1010 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Beijing, Dec 8 (AFP)—Prince Sihanouk is being treated for a problem with his right eye in a hospital here and will not return to Cambodia before January, a member of his entourage said Tuesday.

No details were available on the exact nature of Sihanouk's ailment but the Cambodian source did not rule out suggestions that the Cambodian leader was also suffering from heart problems.

"The prince is very tired and must remain in hospital where he is being treated by Chinese doctors, because his condition remains serious," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sihanouk, who turned 70 on October 31, is being treated for problems with the optical nerve of his right eye at a hospital in central Beijing normally reserved for Chinese leaders.

In October, the prince released a statement saying he was suffering from "a serious health problem" that would require long-term medical treatment. He was also recently treated for an inflammation of the salivary gland.

The prince was supposed to have presided over a meeting Tuesday in Phnom Penh of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), which joins the four former warring factions.

The SNC gathering was downgraded to a working meeting after most of the key figures from the factions failed to attend.

Sihanouk arrived here November 20 from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, where he had been since a day after the November 8 failure of a meeting organised to restart the faltering peace process in Cambodia.

The failure of the plan because of the intransigence of the radical Khmer Rouge faction plunged the prince into a depression, diplomats in Phnom Penh said.

Sihanouk still keeps a residence in Beijing where he spent most of his period of exile from Cambodia between 1978 and 1991.

Supreme National Council's 21st Session Reported

BK0812114292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 8 Dec 92

["Report on the 21st session of the Cambodian Supreme National Council"]

[Text] On the morning of 8 December at the office of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] held its 21st session with the participation of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, UNTAC chief; H.E. John Sanderson, UNTAC military chief; representatives of the five major powers, permanent members of the UN Security Council; the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia; ambassadors; and many embassy representatives of various friendly countries accredited to Cambodia.

SNC members attending this meeting were H.E. Im Chhunlim, State of Cambodia's education minister; H.E. Ieng Muli, vice chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP]; H.E. General Sin Sen, deputy national security minister; H.E. Son Sann, BLDP chairman; H.E. General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister of the State of Cambodia.

The meeting was held with the following agenda:

I. Review of the latest developments;
II. Principles of the new constitution; power of the president during the transitional period;
III. Adherence to a neutral political atmosphere;
IV. Report of the technical advisory committee on managing the exploitation of natural resoureces; and
V. Report of the technical advisory committee on rehabilitation.

The meeting will continue its work on 10 December.

Akashi Proposes Prosecutors Office

OW0812150992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec. 8 KYODO—The chief of the United Nations peacekeeping effort in Cambodia on Tuesday proposed the creation of a special prosecutors office with the right to investigate and arrest election law violators in next spring's general elections.

Yasushi Akashi, heading the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), made the proposal to Cambodia's interim ruling Supreme National Council (SNC), adding that military disputes and threats had increased recently.

Police organizations of each of the political factions in Cambodia are currently acting under UNTAC control, but as long as the law remains incompletely developed, there are doubts the factions can cope with the disputes among them.

Akashi also proposed that in order to enforce an embargo on timber exports next January, border checkpoints be set up and governments and businesses in Cambodia and abroad be notified of the trade embargo.

Akashi indicated, however, that before an export embargo on gems can be proposed to the SNC, the consideration of a committee of experts is necessary.

The U.N. Peacekeeping chief said he was considering ways to implement a presidential election in Cambodia and asked for opinions from each of the factions so the SNC can decide on the transition period from the elections to the establishment of a new government.

Paper Calls New Khmer Rouge Party 'Maneuver'

BK0712141592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Undated PRACHEACHON commentary: "The True Nature of the So-Called Cambodian National Union Party of the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] According to foreign sources, on 30 October the Khmer Rouge announced setting up a new political party, the so-called Cambodian National Union Party [CNUP]. The composition of the new party's top leadership includes 10 persons, with Khieu Samphan as chairman and Son Sen as vice chairman.

The true nature of the so-called CNUP does not surprise anyone. This is just a new Khmer Rouge maneuver. It is obvious that although the names of Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Nuon Chaa, and Ta Mok are not on the list of the top leadership of this new party, these people cannot dupe others; this new party is that of the Khmer Rouge.

In the past it was common knowledge that Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge representative in the Supreme National Council, usually did what Pol Pot ordered, no more no less. Many diplomats have reasonably said that Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge figurehead, has been put on stage just to dupe other people. In the political platform of the Khmer Rouge's new party, these people have openly adhered to a tendency which is exactly the same as that of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], which is responsible for the massacre of over 3 million Cambodians and which to this day still refuses to take part in implementing the peace process and continues to massacre innocent Cambodian people. The so-called demand for two conditions for the PDK's participation in elections, which Khieu Samphan has successively made, has been included in the policy of the CNUP in its continued opposition to the State of Cambodia. It has created obstacles to the process of implementing the Paris peace agreement.

Thus it is enough for us to determine that the so-called CNUP is just the same as Pol Pot's old party. It is these people's desire to give themselves a new face and create confusion about the United Nations economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge which were adopted on 30 November. More than ever, we should increase our vigilance against the new maneuver of the Khmer Rouge/(?Pol Pot). One should not forget that these people's goal is to return to power through all means. At the moment, they are using a new political maneuver combined with a dry season military plan as a core force.

Minister Interviewed on Blocking KR Gem Trade

BK0712152292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 7 Dec 92

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Excerpt] BANGKOK, Dec 7 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government will try Tuesday to put an end to the multi-million-dollar cross-border trade in gems conducted by the Khmer Rouge [KR], a Phnom Penh leader announced here Monday. The effort will be formally launched in a resolution to be presented at a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong told AFP.

Hor Namhong also urged Thai leaders to realise it was in their country's "long-term interest" to cut off the trade.

The SNC is a reconciliation body made up of representatives of Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government, the Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-communist guerrilla groups. The Khmer Rouge guerrilla force is largely bankrolled by lucrative concessions it grants to Thai traders to extract rubies and fell timber in areas under its control along Cambodia's border with Thailand.

"Our proposal to the SNC is aimed at stopping the plunder of Cambodia's national resources by the Khmer Rouge. We also want to respond to the United Nations resolution," Hor Namhong said in an interview.

He was referring to a limited economic embargo adopted late last month by the U.N. Security Council in a bid to force the Khmer Rouge, the strongest antigovernment guerrilla force during the Cambodia war, to rejoin the peace process in the southeast Asian nation. The Khmer Rouge has been refusing since June to lay down its arms under a crucial U.N. programme to disarm the war-ravaged country's rival forces and pave the way to U.N.-supervised elections by May next year.

The U.N. resolution bans oil supplies to the Khmer Rouge. It also expresses support for a year-end embargo on exports of logs from Cambodia passed in September by the SNC despite Khmer Rouge opposition and calls for a similar moratorium on the gem trade.

Thailand has pledged to support U.N. sanctions. But the Bangkok government, under strong pressure from the business community along the Thai-Cambodian border, has also repeatedly warned that implementation would be almost impossible. [passage omitted on background]

Hor Namhong warned Thailand that "it should realise that its long-term interest lies in a united and peaceful Cambodia."

"Thailand should not be linked with just one single faction," the Phnom Penh leader said. "Trading with the Khmer Rouge is to support their war effort and to encourage the guerrillas to extend the duration of the war," he said.

Besides, Hor Namhong added, Thai traders should be aware that they could contract deals similar to those they have passed with the Khmer Rouge with the future government to take over in Phnom Penh after next year's elections.

Hun Sen Holds Talks With Austrian Diplomat

BK0812090392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, received for talks (Edward Meyer), adviser of the Austrian foreign minister, who arrived in Phnom Penh on 2 December. (Edward Meyer) pointed out the goal of his visit to Cambodia: to understand a number of major issues in Cambodia, particularly the resolutions of the UN Security Council on sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

On this issue H.E. Hun Sen told (Meyer) that imposing sanctions on the Khmer Rouge was good news and a good step. However, we also realize that [words indistinct] how to do it; the major point being what happens to our internal situation and not on [words indistinct] or any countries. What responsible stance should UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] take in order to solve the problem?

Concerning the election, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that our side has done a lot and cooperated with UNTAC, particularly regarding the repatriation of refugees, which has been successively carried out. We have also carried out the poll registration. However, the major issue is that this process has not yet been (?carried out) in Khmer Rouge zones. This election could therefore [words indistinct] because there are some views according to which the election should be undertaken with the Khmer Rouge participation; not to include the Khmer Rouge would be a violation of the agreement.

Now we ask this question: Did the Khmer Rouge decide for themselves or did our side expell them? The fact is that the Khmer Rouge have excluded themselves from the process of implementing the agreement. If the Khmer Rouge are kept in, this could create a lot of problems. Furthermore, the Khmer Rouge still have no plan to implement the agreement. Many complex problems could arise if the Khmer Rouge issue is not clearly (?discussed); it would be good if the Khmer Rouge are left out as (?bandits). However, at the moment the Khmer Rouge are part of a legitimate body, the Supreme National Council. They still have territory and troops but their zones are not accessible to us or UNTAC. However, they can enter the zones under our control.

As for any military capability against the Khmer Rouge, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that in the past the forces of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, cooperated with those of the Khmer Rouge to fight the Phnom Penh regime. Now these parties have implemented the agreement; therefore, there have been changes in the Khmer Rouge force and the alliance of forces.

However, the major point is that if UNTAC still does not pay attention to clearly discussing the issues, the Khmer Rouge will continue to operate secretly, as for example in fishing and forested areas, and many other areas. H.E. Hun Sen continued: The new party of Khieu Samphan is still that of Pol Pot; the tactic has been changed, but the strategy remains the same.

(Edward Meyer) thanked H.E. Hun Sen and informed him of the situation concerning a number of issues in Austria.

Cheysson, EC Parliament Delegation Pay Visit

Discuss Election With Hun Sen

BK0812101992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] On 4 December in Phnom Penh, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen received an EC Parliament delegation led by Claude Cheysson, member of the French Socialist Party and the EC Parliament in charge of foreign affairs and security, who was paying a courtesy call.

Speaking on this occasion, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out the implementation of the Paris agreement and the State of Cambodia's goal and stance to realize the constituent assembly election in May 1993. H.E. Hun Sen also talked about some positive and negative aspects of the Paris agreement implementation and some of its difficulties as one of the four parties, namely the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] of the Khmer Rouge, has not fully complied with the treaty. This has created problems for the entire peace plan and has affected the military, security, order, and economic situation.

H.E. Hun Sen also talked about new developments in which the UN Security Council [UNSC] recently adopted resolutions to impose sanctions on the Khmer Rouge to bring it back to the peace process. The implementation of UNSC resolutions is a problem. Whether this can be done will depend partly on the determination of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in taking concrete action and on the cooperation of neighboring countries.

Replying, Claude Cheysson talked about his mission to understand the election organization, the restoration of peace, the reconstruction of Cambodia, and also the views of local and foreign communities, that is the views of all parties concerned, and to report this to the EC Parliament and its 12 member-countries. Claude Cheysson also paid attention to a number of points raised at the UNSC on the election of a president and constituent assembly and the security in Cambodia following the latter's election.

Finally, H.E. Hun Sen and Claude Cheysson agreed that UNTAC has done a good job despite some minor problems due to the shortcomings of a small group of people. They firmly believe that the UNSC resolutions will open up many possibilities for the rehabilitation of Cambodia in the future.

Received by Chea Sim 4 Dec

BK0612062892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 4 December at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, received for talks the EC parliament delegation led by H.E. Claude Cheysson, former French foreign minister and currently member of the European Parliament in charge of EC foreign affairs and security, who was also paying a courtesy call.

On this occasion, after warmly welcoming H.E. Claude Cheysson, H.E. Chea Sim pointed out the result of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement which the State of Cambodia [SOC] side has made efforts to correctly implement in close cooperation with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. H.E. Chea Sim told his guest about the bad consequences in the implementation of the peace agreement resulting from the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to cooperate. The Khmer Rouge continue to attack the State of Cambodia side at a number of positions, causing damage to material and loss of our people's lives. Finally, H.E. Chea Sim expressed profound thanks to the European countries' initiatives and hoped that these good ideas would receive concrete assistance from the international community as well as the EC in the election to choose His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of state.

Replying, H.E. Claude Cheysson expressed heartfelt happiness over the development in the SOC under the leadership of the CPP and the SOC Government. He also highly valued the SOC for appropriately implementing the second phase of the peace agreement. Finally, H.E. Claude Cheysson expressed happiness over the agreement of H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP, and the SOC Government to offer the candidacy to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the presidential election and on the assembly election.

Chea Sim Receives DPRK Ambassador for Talks

BK0712072592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 4 December at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, received for talks H.E. Kim Hyong-yol, ambassador of the DPRK in Cambodia, who was also paying a courtesy call.

On this occasion, H.E. Chea Sim warmly welcomed his guest and highly valued the diplomatic mission of H.E. Kim Hyong-yol for his efforts to promote the implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia. H.E. Chea Sim pointed out the all-round development of the State of Cambodia [SOC] over the past 14 years. H.E. Chairman Chea Sim also talked about the SOC's efforts to appropriately implement the Paris agreement and to closely cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in achieving successful results in the implementation of the agreement.

However, despite the fact that the SOC has appropriately implemented the accord, the Khmer Rouge side continues to hinder this peace agreement by violating the cease-fire and the areas of the SOC, and massacring our people in a number of areas. H.E. Chea Sim stressed the stance of the SOC Government in supporting the candidacy of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the elections to choose a president or head of state and to choose a constituent assembly so that he can be a shade for all the children to live with peace.

H.E. Chea Sim talked about the new development concerning the economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, saying this is most appropriate in terms of implementing the peace agreement.

Replying, H.E. Kim Hyong-yol said he was very moved and happy with the party and SOC Government for creating all kinds of conditions for his stay and diplomatic mission. H.E. Kim Hyong-yol praised H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and all leading SOC officials for their efforts to organize the recent grandiose celebrations of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's 70th birthday anniversary in the royal palace. This is a great honor for the prince and his royal consort.

Chea Sim Addresses Front's Anniversary Meeting

BK0512070992 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 5 Dec (SPK)—A solemn meeting was organized in Phnom Penh on Wednesday [2 December] to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense (2 December 1978).

Chea Sim, chairman of the front's National Council, recalled the history of the front's foundation, previously called Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation, as well as its sacrifices in close cooperation with the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party (currently the Cambodian People's Party) to liberate the country and the entire population from the danger of the past in January 1979.

Talking about the current situation around the process to search for peace in Cambodia, Chea Sim, also chairman of both the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and Cambodia's National Assembly, stressed that despite the Khmer Rouge's refusal, the State of Cambodia always shows its goodwill for national reconciliation, peace, and the country's stability by cooperating with UN peacekeeping forces [words indistinct] the Paris peace agreement.

On behalf of the Cambodian people, Government, the front's National Council, and the entire population, Chea Sim expressed his thanks to [words indistinct] Sihanouk, [words indistinct] of Cambodia [SNC], who has sacrificed all his efforts, since his return home, to the cause of the country and the people.

"The party, government, and the front's National Council consider Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of state of Cambodia and unreservedly support his candidacy in the coming presidential election", reaffirmed Chea Sim who called on the people of all social strata to further consolidate the solidarity around the party and front to build and defend the nation.

Among those also present at the meeting were Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Council of State; Chea Soth, standing member of the party Central Committee; and others.

Chea Sim Speaks at Building Inauguration Ceremony

BK0712073192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] On the morning of 6 December at Vat Russei Sanh monastery in Prey Sar commune, Dangkao district, Phnom Penh city, a ceremony was organized to solemnly inaugurate a religious building with the participation of monks, wisemen, and a multitude of Buddhist followers.

Taking part in this ceremony were His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; Sim Ka, standing member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh city party committee and people's committee; and General Sin Sen, member of the CPP Central Committee and deputy minister of national security.

According to a report by Kroch Chhan, chairman of the Dangkao district party committee and people's committee, the repair of the building started in May 1992. The cost involved in restoring the wooden structure with roof covered with galvanized sheets was 3.5 million riel. This was generously borne by H.E. Chea Sim, Sin Sen, and followers in Prey Sar commune and Phnom Penh.

Speaking on this occasion, H.E. Chea Sim praised the achievements in the district over the past 14 years and more. He informed the audience about the current development of the State of Cambodia [SOC], particularly the progress in religious affairs, and highlighted the implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia. He said the CPP and the SOC Government have always respected and sincerely implemented every phase of the agreement and have created all kinds of favorable conditions for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. On the contrary, the Khmer Rouge side not only has refused to implement the agreement but has also violated it by shelling and infiltrating zones under the SOC control.

H.E. Chea Sim called on all parties to abide by and sincerely implement the Paris peace agreement in order to achieve the final goal of peace and national reconciliation to respond to the persistent aspiration of the Cambodian people.

Indonesia

Military Rounding Up Aceh Insurgents

BK0612055492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 6 (AFP)—Indonesian authorities are tracking down a group of alleged separatist insurgents from Aceh hiding in Malaysia, forcing a relative of one of the fugitives to help them, a dissident spokesman said Sunday.

Ismail Sahputra, spokesman for the Aceh Merdeka or Free Aceh movement here, said a 61-year old father of one of the 13 insurgents had been forced to trace the whereabouts of the group.

"If he fails to return, he fears that harm will befall not only his family, but also the relatives of the rest of the group now being closely watched by Indonesian troops," Ismail told AFP.

Ismail said the "envoy" had been in Kuala Lumpur since October and "has accomplished his mission and will be returning to Aceh in a day or two."

Two of the 13 are said to be in Stockholm, where the leader of Aceh Merdeka, Hasan Di Tiro, lives in exile.

"The authorities want the addresses and photographs of all the 13 if they cannot be persuaded to return," Ismail said.

More than 3,000 Acehnese supporters of Aceh Merdeka have fled to Kuala Lumpur over the last two years claiming Indonesian troops were out to crush the independence movement.

The troops reportedly launched an offensive from June 1990 to March 1992 to suppress the Islamic fundamentalist guerrilla movement rebelling against the Jakarta central government.

A group of 44, including a baby, have been holed up at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) office here since June 22 in a futile attempt to force the Malaysian government to grant them political asylum.

"About 160 of them are languishing in Malaysian prisons for being illegal immigrants," Ismail said.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's foreign minister, said the government's stand on the Acehnese remained unchanged.

"We won't forcibly repatriate them, but we will use gentle moral suasion," he told AFP.

Abdullah said he was unaware of the presence of the "envoy" sent here to round up Acehnese insurgents.

"It is good if Indonesia can persuade them to return," Abdullah said.

Officials here said Malaysia would not risk jeopardising ties with neighbouring Indonesia, fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.

Red Cross Officials Meet Captured Rebel Leader

BK0712124192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Two officials of the International Red Cross Committee have expressed their satisfaction for the permission given by the Indonesian Government to meet with Xanana Gusmao, former leader of the East Timor GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] at the Jakarta detention center today. This was disclosed by (Piere S. Fond), a representative of the International Red Cross

Committee in Jakarta. He said the meeting with Xanana Gusmao was a result of talks between Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Red Cross officials in Geneva.

Earlier, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had requested the Indonesian Government to allow Red Cross officials to visit Xanana Gusmao in his detention cell.

'Security Disturbance' Group Disbands

BK0712132692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1225 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Dili, Dec 7 (OANA/ANTARA)—Approximately 200 members of a trouble maker movement in Baucau regency, East Timor, stated on Sunday that they dissolved the movement and made their apologies to the Indonesian Government and the East Timorese people.

The ceremony marking the disbanding of the security disturbing movement at Baucau sport-hall was attended by Otto D—assistant to the East Timor Governor, local civil and military officials as well as about 3,000 local people.

Three members of the clandestine movement—Domingos F. Gusmao, Benvida R. Gusmao and Albinada Silva—representing all members declared under oath the disbanding of the movement, witnessed by local community leaders. The oath, taken in a traditional manner, was followed by the reading of a statement of the dissolution of the illegal movement.

On the occasion, they also vowed to be always loyal to Pancasila sole ideology of the Indonesian nation and the 1945 Constitution and pledged that they would never join any clandestine organisations and never oppose the Republic of Indonesia as a unitary state.

Lt. Col. Kristiantoro, commandant of Sektor A (Baucau, Viqueque and Manatuto), on behalf of Commander of the East Timor Military Operational Command Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei, called on the former members of the security disturbing movement to be loyal to their pledge.

Gregorio, a leader in the unlawful group, stated on the occasion that Xanana Gusmao, who was captured by the East Timor military force not long ago, was not a leader as foreign media and his sympathizers had stated so far.

Commander Warns Against Antireligious Attacks

BK0312061992 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 29 Nov 92 p 16

[By Jakarta correspondent Paul Jacob]

[Text] Jakarta—The military commander in northern Sumatra, where several churches were reportedly attacked earlier last month, has sounded a stern warning that the authorities will come down hard on anyone promoting religious-inspired attacks in the country.

Major General R. Pramono, who led the military's successful campaign against militant Muslim separatists in Aceh, said he would act firmly "against anyone who intends to sow discord in the nation".

His warning that "extremists" were using religion in an attempt to undermine national unity came on the heels of comments by Armed Forces Chief Try Sutrisno to Parliament last Thursday about the need for religious harmony.

Responding to queries about a recent spate of attacks and burning of churches in north Sumatra and east Java General Try said the military "will not remain silent" and allow the recurrence of similar events in the future.

One of the incidents in the north Sumatran city of Pangkalan Brandan is believed to have involved a public assembly hall which had been bought and converted into a place of worship by a Christian group.

Active efforts by Christian groups to convert Muslims is also understood to have caused resentment among some of the more outspoken members of Indonesia's Muslim-majority population.

Two papers here reported Maj. Gen. Pramono as saying in a statement on Friday that attempts were being made in the north Sumatran capital of Medan to pit Muslims against Christians.

An increasing number of pamphlets was being openly distributed in markets, schools and mosques by an unnamed group alleging that a process of Christianisation was taking place, one paper reported.

Maj. Gen. Pramono called on religious leaders to "fortify" their followers in order that they did not become easily influenced and emotional.

The general public should also be on guard against any issue which could affect harmony.

Diplomatic and other sources in Jakarta, Medan, and Surabaya said that they were aware of videotapes being circulated and screened privately, as well as openly in some mosques, detailing the plight of Muslims in the conflict in Bosnia.

They said the tapes could have had some effect on sentiments towards Christians in Indonesia, but were unlikely to have been the major cause of the attack on churches.

"There are deeper, more underlying reasons. These actions appear, at the moment, to be carried out by a small minority but could also reflect that intolerance is slowly building up," one Indonesian source said.

He also said an attack by a mob on a church in Pasuruan, East Java, on 15 November appeared to have been prompted by a church-produced publication which was seen as insulting to the Prophet Mohamed and the Koran, the Muslim holy book.

The source said there were also two other incidents involving Christian places of worship in the same area which were damaged by crowds.

In both these other cases, the authorities had offered to rebuild the churches and guarantee that legitimate church activity would not be disrupted.

Sources in Surabaya, the capital of East Java, said that other cases they were aware of in the province did not involve destruction or burning.

The Indonesian Government has been firmly opposed to any attempt to develop the country into an Islamic state.

Religions are put on an equal footing and the first tenet of the Pancasila state ideology refers to the belief in one God, without specifying any particular religion.

Paper Warns Against Discrimination, Provocations

BK0812092192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 8 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] ANGKATAN BERSENJATA says that the Indonesian people's most important duty is to protect the younger generation from ethnic, religious, racial, and communal provocations launched by those opposed to Pancasila. Echoing remarks by Major General K. Harseno, commander of the Greater Jakarta Military Region Command, when he met religious leaders on Sunday and Monday, the daily agreed that it was important that Muslim religious leaders enhance the religious education of their followers, especially students and youths to prevent them from being influenced by issues spread by dirty hands aimed at pitting Muslims against followers of other beliefs, thus creating chaos.

The daily also says that the ethnic, religious, racial, and communal provocations may have been launched by the remnants of the 30 September Movement of the Indonesian Communist Party who are still at large and infiltrating various groups in society. The dirty hands have tried to use students for their political interests. According to the daily, it is possible that they might have masterminded the recent bus robbery by youngsters in Jakarta.

Automotive Agreement Signed With Hungary 4 Dec

BK0412153292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1455 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (ANTARA)—Indonesia and Hungary decided to enhance their economic relations here Friday by signing a contract agreement on automotive business and consumer goods.

Indonesia in the signing of the agreement was represented by Trade Minister Arifin Siregar while Hungary by International Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar.

Kadar said Hungary is ready to participate in Indonesia's development activities especially in the construction of bus manufacturing companies, food processing factories, and power generating plants.

Siregar, on the other hand, stressed the importance of Hungary's capital Budapest as the gate of Indonesian export commodities to Europe.

He further said that in the near future an Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC) will be opened in Hungary to enable Indonesian businessmen to better introduce their products and services in eastern Europe.

Siregar also promised his counterpart to send more Indonesia trade missions to Hungary in the future.

U.S. Firms Bid for Palapa-C Satellite

BK0112144092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 18 Nov 92 p 8

[Excerpts] Jakarta (JP)—State-owned PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom) [Indonesian Telecommunications Company Limited] has received and approved proposals from two American companies, General Electric Astro Space and Hughes Aircraft, to build the C generation of Indonesia's Palapa communications satellites. Telkom forwarded both proposals to the government and is now waiting for the final decision, Dodie Amaruddin, Telkom's public relations manager, said here yesterday.

Amaruddin said Telkom is still considering whether the Chinese Long March, the French Ariane or the American Atlas rocket will be used to launch the first Palapa C satellite. [passage omitted]

The announcement yesterday ended some of the debates over the Palapa C satellite's technical details, such as whether it should use the L-band for mobile communications transmissions. Some experts at Telkom and Hughes believe the Palapa C model should employ a system other than the L-band. They say the L-band will make the satellites heavier and more complicated, raising both the construction and launching costs. [passage omitted]

Indonesia should pay attention to recent innovations in the mobile telecommunications industry, which will pave the way for the telecommunications business of the future, experts from Telkom and other satellite-makers say on the other hand.

On August 10 Telkom invited Aerospatiale/Loral of France, British Aerospace, Spar Aerospace of Canada, Hughes and GE Astro Space to submit proposals to build the first Palapa C satellite, Amaruddin said. He said the company received proposals from Hughes and GE Astro

Space by October 10. Telkom decided to endorse both of these proposals and sent them to the government.

The satellite should have a capacity of 30 transponders of the C-band (the frequency for audio-visual communication) size and four transponders of the KU-band (for audio only) size, Amaruddin said.

Suharto Inaugurates New Oil Field 8 Dec

BK0812093792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] President Suharto inaugurated the Belida oil field in the South Natuna Sea [name as heard], Riau Province by satellite from the Bina Graha Presidential Office this afternoon. Faisal Abda'u, president director of the State Oil and Gas Company [Pertamina], said in a report that the Belida oil field was jointly operated by Pertamina and Conoco [Continental Oil Company Incorporated, a U.S. company] using sophisticated technology, including a computerized system. He said that the Belida oil field has a reserve of 187 million barrels and has an initial production capacity of 30,000 barrels of light oil daily. The Belida oil field, which was built at a cost of $639.6 million, is expected to produce 75,000 barrels of crude oil daily in 1994.

President Suharto said in his speech that Indonesia is a major oil producer in the world and a major oil exporter in the Asia-Pacific region. However, there is an equally huge oil demand at home which is growing rapidly. If demand continues at the current rate, domestic production will no longer be able to keep pace with domestic consumption in the not too distant future. If that happens, Indonesia will no longer be an oil exporter but will instead become an oil importer. For this reason, the head of state stressed the need for measures to anticipate such a situation. [passage indistinct including one-minute Suharto recording]

After the inauguration, President Suharto held long-distance talks with the Pertamina leadership and Conoco workers in the Belida oil field. Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita and Riau Governor Suripto also gave speeches during the function.

Laos

Thai Paper Examines Business Opportunities

BK0312044592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Dec 92 p B2

[Article by Bangkok Bank Research Department "Examining Business Opportunities in Laos"; final part of two parts]

[Text] Prior to 1989 Laos had one foreign trade bank and just two local banks, the Nakhon Luang Bank and the Sethathilath Bank.

On Oct 3 1989 the first joint venture bank between Laotians and foreigners, the Joint Development Bank, was opened for business. It is a joint Thai-Laos bank with Thais holding 70 per cent of the capital.

In December of the same year, the Thai Military Bank established a representative office in Laos. This office has since been upgraded to the status of a branch and will begin to operate as one in the near future.

Other foreign banks showing interest in Laos include the Siam Commetcial Bank, the Thai Farmers Bank, and the Bangkok Bank. The first two have already received approval from the Laotian authorities.

In addition, the Vientiane Commercial Bank has received approval and is expected to open its doors soon. When the newly approved banks start their operations there will be 12 commercial banks in Laos, as well as a foreign trade bank.

The Vientiane municipal area will be a highly competitive region containing the headquarters of nine commercial banks (including the Foreign Trade Bank).

Banking hours in Laos are not the same as Thailand's. Operating hours for Laotian banks is from 8 am to 12 am and 2 pm to 5 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 12 am on Saturdays.

Thai banks, meanwhile, only operate on weekdays from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Interest rates on deposits vary from bank to bank depending on the type and the currency of deposits. For instance, at the end of 1991 the rate on current accounts in kip was 1.2 per cent per annum in most banks except the Nakhon Luang Bank and the Sethathilath Bank, which did not pay interest on such deposits.

For six-month fixed deposits in kip the state bank fixed a rate of 16 per cent per annum, while the Nakhon Luang Bank and the Sethathilath Bank paid 24 per cent per annum.

In addition, the Foreign Trade Bank and the Joint Develoment Bank paid 19 per cent per annum, the Lane Xang Bank paid 17 per cent per annum, the Pak Tai Bank paid 16 per cent per annum, and the Lao Mai Bank paid 18 per cent per annum.

For deposits in US dollars, the Nakhon Luang Bank, the Sethathilath, and the Foreign Trade Bank paid 7 per cent per annum [pa].

Interest rates on loans vary according to terms, currencies involved, and purposes of borrowing. The rate on loans for agriculture and forestry is the lowest. For instance, a short-term loan in Kip carries the rate of 15 per cent pa, a medium-term loan carries a rate of between 9-12 per cent pa and a longterm one carries a rate of between 7-10 per cent pa.

In US dollars, the respective rates are 9 per cent, 8 per cent and 7 per cent pa, while in baht the annual rates are 12 per cent, 10 per cent, and 12 per cent respectively.

Short-term is for periods not exceeding three years, medium-term is considered to be between three and five years and long-term is for five years and over.

Loan rates for trade and services are the highest. Short-term loans in Kip are charged at 28-30 per cent pa, 12-15 per cent pa in US dollars and 15-19 per cent in baht.

However, at the end of 1991 the Joint Development Bank fixed one rate on short-term loans in US dollars and baht: those in US dollars were charged at 14 per cent pa and 19 per cent pa in baht.

Foreign exchange rates are determined by the market mechanism. and the Foreign Trade Bank displays notices of daily exchange rates. In August 1992, the rates averaged 710 kip to one US dollar, and 29 kip to one baht.

They compare to August 1989 rates of 610 kip and 26-27 kip respectively.

The foreign exchange market has been quite stable in 1991 and 1992 and differences in official and market rates are not significant.

The state bank, by decree of the Council of Ministers, has imposed control on foreign exchange dealing since Sept 7, 1990.

It stipulated that foreign exchange must only be transacted through the State Bank. In practice, however, foreign currencies are widely used by the public in daily transactions. This is because the Laotians have more confidence in foreign currencies, particularly the Thai Baht and the US dollar, than in the Laotian kip.

According to statistics from the Bank of Thailand's Northeast branch, Laotian residents using commercial banks in Northeast Thailand had 993 accounts, with total deposits of Btl63.5 million at the end of 1991.

They increased to 1,051 accounts and Bt 177.9 million at the end of June 1992. Mostly they are placed with commercial banks in Nong Khai, Mukdaharn, Ubon Ratchathani, and Nakhon Phanom.

According to the same June statistics, about 63 per cent were savings accounts, 24 per cent were fixed and 13 per cent were current. However, moneywise, 64 per cent were fixed, 31 per cent were savings, and 5 per cent were current.

At present, Laos is keenly promoting foreign investment with priority being given to agriculture and integrated agroindustries. This is because agriculture is Laos' main economic sector, involving over 80 per cent of the population.

Because present agricultural technology is obsolete and production does not satisfy domestic demand, the Laotian Government is keen to develop the sector using foreign capital and technology. Manufacturing industries, in which the Laotian Govemment is also interested, are labour-intensive light industries such as textiles and other consumer goods.

There are six categories of projects which are illegal.

Projects which effect national integrity, orderliness, and social peace, or those which deviate from Laotian economic and social needs.

Projects which harm the environment seriously.

Projects which depend largely on foreign raw materials long term, and the products of which are catering mainly for the domestic market and do not substitute for imported necessities.

Projects of investors who are too heavily burdened with debt.

Projects which are not permitted by the govemment, or those whose promotion have ceased.

Projects which employ obsolete technology and have low productivity.

Laos has established a board of investment promotion, similar to that of Thailand, and calls it the Permanent Office of Foreign Investment Management Committee (FIMC).

The committee is responsible for giving advice and approval for investment. In the case that a project involves capital investment greater than US$5 million, the FIMC will give its opinions about the investment to the Council of Ministers for their approval.

All foreign investment must pass through the FIMC. Contacts for investment in Laos may be done in the following two ways:

Contact the FIMC directly for advice. The FIMC would then proceed to inform the district where the investment will be made and ask the relevant authorities to facilitate the venture.

Should the investor be acquainted with officials of the district where investment is to be made, the contact may be made directly. However when the actual investment is to be effected, the FIMC should be contacted directly for investment approval in order to guarantee against any dispute that may arise. (This regulation has been enforced since mid-1990. Prior to this, the district administrator had the power to approve any investment project. However, when a dispute occurred, the central authorities were not in a position to help because they were not involved from the beginning. With the new regulation, the FIMC can now move m directly to help find solutions to the disputes).

Corporate income tax or taxes on profits of foreign enterprises in Laos are levied according to the type of business. There are 6 rates based on profit:

20 per cent for the construction businesses and for undertakings involving roads, bridges, irrigation, cultivation, animal husbandry and agro-industries utilizing raw matenals from crop cultivation and animal rearing.

25 per cent for mining, forestry products pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, chemicals, medical and educational equipment, construction materials', electrical equipment, electric power generation, and production of machinery.

30 per cent for logging and petroleum exploration and production.

35 per cent for manufacturing of consumer goods, housing construction, repairs, and services.

40 per cent for mining and production of metal, glass and precious stones, hotels, tourism, restaurants, and entertainment.

50 per cent for commercial enterprises, banking, and insurance.

However, according to article 28 of the Laotian foreign investment laws, certain rebates may be allowed on the above rates, at the approval of the FIMC on a case by case basis.

In addition, further tax reductions of 2-5 per cent are also extended to projects which meet at least three of the following six conditions:

At least 70 per cent of the production is exported.

Utilize local raw materials by at least 70 per cent of total requirement.

Utilize advanced technology.

Site of the project lacks appropriate natural, economic and social conditions.

The project has a low profit margin, but is vital to the economic development.

The project is launched prior to 1995.

The Laotian govemment may also consider a tax holiday of two to four?years on priority projects when profits begin to accrue, and may give a rebate of 50 per cent for another two years after the tax holiday. This will be at the sole discretion of the FIMC.

Should losses be incurred during the tax holiday, the business will be allowed to bring profits for one or more years, but no more than five after termination of the tax holiday period, to compensate for losses. Any business which reinvests its profit for upwards of three years, will not be taxed, or in cases where the taxes are already collected, taxes on profits of the amount reinvested will be redeemed.

Interested investors are advised to contact the FIMC directly for approval, without paying expenses except for the investment application form at about kip 2,000-2,500. In the past, nany foreign investors were conned into paying various expenses because they went about things indirectly.

Although Laos is listed as a least developed country—entitling it to GSP—in reality US imports from Laos are highly taxed because they are considered as goods from a socialist country. Ready made garments, for instance, are liable to taxes of 40-90 per cent. To overcome the problem, Laotian products are first exported to Thailand to look like they originate in the Kingdom and then re-exported. But this practice incurs higher costs but it is expected that the problem will ease with the improvement in domestic Laotian politics.

Apart from this, Thai businessmen in Laos are attempting to form a league to protect their interests, create bargaining power with Laos, and act as advisers for Laos' development.

The Laotian trading system is divided into categories of goods, and a stipulation for the minimum capital requirement of each category is that traders are required to pay 3 per cent of the registered capital as a guarantee.

Trading opportunities between Thailand and Laos are widespread. Thai goods are popular and widely available in Laos. All Thai TV channels, except channel 11, can be received in Laos, and are an influential force in the country. The fact that the Thai language and culture are both akin to those of Laos give Thai businessmen an advantage over other nationalities in the country.

Furthermore, Laos and Thailand have signed many treaties and agreements, both at the G to G [government-to-government] and private levels, one of them between the Board of Trade of Thailand and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Thailand has abolished the ban on trade of strategic goods, and since April 1991, the Bank of Thailand has increased the amount of Baht currency to be allowed to be taken out to bordering countries.

Now, Bt1OO,OOO can be removed from the country without obtaining prior approval from the Bank of Thailand. It is likely that the amount will be increased further.

In border trade between the two countries, there are presently 8 passes (trading posts) in operation. These include two in Chiang Rai, two in Nong Khai, two in Ubon Ratchathani, one in Mukdaham, and one in Nakhon Phanom. Total value of trade in 1991 grossed about Bt3,496.3 million, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the previous year.

Thai exports to Laos increased by 21.7 per cent, and imports increased by 12.8 per cent. During the first seven months of 1992, Thai exports to Laos totalled about Btl,481.5 million, an increase of 42.7 per cent from the corresponding period in 1991 and imports from Laos totalled Bt712.7 million, a fall of 30.8 per cent.

Nong Khai is the most important pass for Thai exports, accounting for about 76 per cent, followed by Mukdaharn at 14 per cent. Nong Khai accounted for 31 per cent of imports and Mukdahan 30 per cent.

Approved Foreign Investment, by Countries

(September 1988-June 1992)

Country	No.	Million US$
Thailand	93	138.0
France	18	14.3
Taiwan	14	18.8
USA	13	72.0
Hong Kong	12	23.0
Australia	12	17.4
China	11	18.7
Russia	11	16.8
Japan	7	3.3
UK	6	11.9
Others	35	13.1
Total	232	347.3

Source: FIMC

Paper Reviews Year's Cooperation with Thailand

Part I

BK0812040592 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Nov 92 pp 2, 4

[Part I of unattributed article: "Fruits of Lao-Thai Cooperation in Past Year"]

[Text] In the past year, with a long-standing tradition of mutual affection between the Lao and Thai peoples as good and close neighbors since ancient times and with the consistent efforts made by the governments of the two countries aimed at promoting peace, mutual friendship, and cooperation in conformity with the requirements of the new era, the mutual relations and cooperation between the two sides have made progress at an admirable pace. In this prevailing healthy atmosphere, organizations both in the Lao and Thai governmental and private sectors have enhanced their roles through the guidelines and mechanisms provided by their respective responsible leaderships in gradually promoting the relations and cooperation for mutual benefits in the political, economic, social, cultural, technical, and other fields. The most prominent and obvious fruits of the Lao-Thai relations and cooperation were the official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], at the invitation of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and the official visit to the LPDR on behalf of His Majesty the King of Thailand by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon. Recently, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon also paid another visit to Laos to present alms to Buddhist monks at many temples during the Krathin festival at the end of the Buddhist Lent.

In the meantime, the Joint Border Security Maintenance Cooperation Committees have also encouraged local military, police, and civilian authorities of the two countries to constantly hold meetings to promote better understanding and cooperation in maintaining general peace and order along the border. In the middle of this year, the two sides assigned military attaches to each other's country.

Another commendable evidence of the mutual cooperation between the two sides was a recent joint effort made by the authorities of the two countries in trying to recover all of the money stolen from a Lao bank by [Lao and Thai] thieves in August this year. The most outstanding sign of cooperation from the Thai side was that the Thai government recently arrested 11 exiled Lao reactionaries who had been using Thai territory to conduct hostile activities against Laos. This important step taken by the Thai side has served to further strengthen mutual understansding and trust between the two countries. (to be continued)

Part II

BK0812060392 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 23 Nov 92 p 3

[Part II of unattributed article: "Fruits of Lao-Thai Cooperation in Past Year"]

[Text] In addition, on 22 August 1992 the Thai side agreed to open one more border crossing at a point between Sanakham [in Laos] and Chiang Khan District [in Thailand]. It is now considering opening similar border crossings at five more points, as proposed by the Lao side, namely, between Kenthao and Tha Li, Sanakham and Kok Phai, Paksane and Bung Kan, Ton Pheung and Chiang Khong, and Pak Taphan and Pakseng.

In the past, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has opened the following border points for cross-border trading with Thailand. The national-level border crossing points are Wattai and Tha Naleng boat landings in Vientiane Municipality, the Thakhek boat landing in Khammouane Province, the Khanthabouli boat landing in Savannakhet Province, the Vang Tao border point in Champassak Province, and the Houai Sai boat landing in Bokeo Province; and the local-level border crossings are the Kenthao border point in Sayaboury Province, the Sanakham border point in Vientiane Province, the Paksane border point in Bolikhamsai Province, the Pak Taphan border point in Saravane Province, and the KM-4 border point in Vientiane Municipality.

At the same time, the two countries have arranged cross-border trading between provinces which are opposite one another. So far, a number of provinces have already signed trade contracts with each other, namely, Khammouane and Nakhon Phanom, Savannakhet and Mukdahan, and Champassak and Ubon Ratchathani.

The two sides have already decided to terminate contracts allowing certain [Thai] firms to monopolize cross-border goods transportation services so as to allow state and private enterprises from both countries to compete fairly with one another in providing such services. The Thai Government has decided to reduce the import tariffs on Lao agricultural goods to be not higher than 20 percent. Moreover, it has also given quotas to Lao exports, namely, coffee, soya beans, and jute [to be imported into Thailand]. It is now considering reducing import duty on finished wooden products from Laos.

As for cooperation in the energy field, authorities of the two sides will soon launch a joint study of the possibility of increasing the capabilities of electricity transmission from Laos to Thailand by improving and changing electricity distribution locations and facilities, such as replacing the underwater power lines with aerial cables between Savannakhet and Mukdahan and between Thakhek and Nakhon Phanom, as well as planning to install such cables between Paksane and Bung Kan, Houai Sai and Chiang Khong, Sanakham and Chiang Khan, Kenthao and Tha Li, and Pak Taphan and Pakseng through either state or joint state-private investment schemes.

With regard to investment, the Thai Government has given investment promotional support to Laos by giving training to Lao investment authorities, sending Thai investment experts to help Laos, and providing Laos with information on Thai investors in Laos.

In the aviation field, the Thai Government is ready in principle to render cooperation to Laos in conducting a survey to improve aviation radio communications on various air routes in Laos. It also plans to help improve the Luang Prabang airfield as soon as possible so as to serve increased economic and tourism links between the two countries.

The two sides have discussed certain principles and regulations in setting up a management and maintenance organization to administer the Mekong bridge which is being built with the assistance from the Australian Government. The construction of the bridge is about 40 percent complete and is expected to be finished on schedule in April 1994. (to be continued)

Part III

BK0812075392 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 24 Nov 92 p 3

[Final part of unattributed article: "Fruits of Lao-Thai Cooperation in Past Year"]

[Text] In the banking business, the Lao side has given permission to the Thai Military Bank, the Thai Commercial Bank, and the Thai Farmers Bank to set up branch offices in the capital, Vientiane.

Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar [Burma] signed a joint statement on cooperation in narcotics suppression and control in Bangkok on 14 March. Laos and Thailand have exchanged information on the control and eradication of narcotics drugs through comprehensive rural development projects, rehabilitation programs, and sightseeing tours.

The repatriation of Lao refugees in Thailand to Laos has also been continued. The two countries want to see to it that cooperation in the technical field is carried out systematically through more long-term projects. In 1992, the two sides have continued training programs for 137 Lao grantees from the funds provided by Thailand, which were begun in 1991. In 1992 alone, the Thai side has given grants to 50 Lao sportsmen for long-term training and to 220 other Lao students for study tours in Thailand.

As for the cultural and tourism field, the two sides have had extensive exchange of artistic and cultural activities, for example, by jointly organizing religious festivals and cultural shows along the Mekong River and sports competition in neighboring provinces, thus allowing the peoples on both sides to forge better understanding and to share more mutual benefits. In February, the two countries signed a tourism cooperation agreement with each other. The Thai Tourism Authority has already opened a branch office in Vientiane to create conditions for developing tourism cooperation with other neigboring countries in the future.

To further strengthen the good understanding between the peoples of the two countries so that they can develop more contacts with one another, the two sides have attached much importance to restoring the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao friendship associations to allow them to function in a more effective fashion.

All this constitutes good evidence of the spiritual ties between the brotherly Lao and Thai peoples. It will become an important firm foundation for the development of long-term relations and cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Foreign Minister Receives Greetings From Romania

BK0712143392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Recently, Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a greetings message from Teodor Melescanu, minister state secretary and foreign affairs minister of Romania [name and title as heard], on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Romania and the LPDR.

In the message, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs extended salutations and cordial greetings to Phoun Sipaseut. He also expressed the conviction that close cooperation between the foreign affairs ministries of the two countries will contribute to broadening the friendly relations and cooperation between Romania and the LPDR.

President Receives Greetings From Foreign Leaders

BK0712142592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Recently, President Francois Mitterrand of France, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat of Mongolia, President Abdur Rahman Biswar of Bangladesh, Governor General Bill Hayden of the Commonwealth of Australia, President George Bush of the United States, and President Rene Felber of Switzerland separately sent greetings messages to His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan on his election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

In their messages, the heads of state of the said friendly countries expressed greetings and best wishes to His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan. They expressed an earnest hope that the friendly relations and cooperation between their respective countries and the LPDR will be consistently improved, promoted, and expanded. They also wished His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan good health and success in performing his noble task.

Philippines

Ramos Forms Committee To Review Detainees' Cases

HK0312130692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has ordered that the cases of 511 political detainees charged with committing common crimes—like arson, murder, robbery and illegal possession of firearms—while fighting for their ideology be reviewed.

The president has also formed a committee tasked with amending the guidelines governing the granting of bail, release, and the awarding of pardons to political prisoners so that they may be applied to political prisoners charged with common crimes. The committee will be composed of Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Local Government Secretary Raphael Alunan III, Defense Secretary Renato De Villa, Human Rights Chairman Siegfried Ordonez, and a representative of the National Unification Commission [NUC]. The group will be coordinating with various human rights groups, like the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, in the review of these cases. The representatives of human rights groups include attorney Rene Sarmiento, Davy Bautista and Cookie Diokno.

Justice Secretary Drilon said the review of the these cases would begin on Monday, and he hopes that it will be finished by the end of the week. He explained that if the committee finishes its review, pardons and executive clemencies may be given even to members of the NPA Sparrow Unit or the Alex Boncayao Brigade, even if they were charged with assassination. However, the justice secretary said these amendments would not apply to the members of the Red Scorpion Group, for the group is an ordinary kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Drilon also said that while the president has emphasized his wish to have peace in the country as his administration's Yuletide gift to the people; this would be unlikely since the NUC's job of formulating the government's amnesty package is still unfinished. Drilon said that the president has given the NUC a new deadline of 16 March to finish formulating the amnesty package.

The president also told human rights representatives that the government has already released around 240 political detainees with the abolition of Republic Act 1700, and this figure exclude those previously released by virtue of his earlier instructions.

Regarding the review of the 511 cases, Drilon clarified that the review will not cover political detainees charged with in rape and estafa [swindling]. It was also learned that Jaime Tadeo, detained leader of the Filipino Farmers Movement, is still not considered a political offender because of his estafa case.

Finally, the president has also formed another special committee, made up of the Department of Justice, the Commission on Human Rights [CHR], and representatives of several human rights groups, to study the cases of desaparidos or involuntary disappearances. Drilon said the committee will study the cases and look into the places where these desaparidos were detained. The committee will be financed by the CHR's 3 million Philippine peso special project fund.

Ramos Orders Investigation of Human Rights Abuses

HK0312152192 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Ramos today ordered Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon to form a committee that will look into the cases of the so-called desaparecidos—some 1,200 persons who went missing during the martial law regime and were believed to have been tortured or killed by military personnel.

The special committee includes representatives from the Commission on Human Rights and nongovernment human rights groups.

The president also ordered the formation of a multisectoral committee to review the cases of 511 detainees, some of whom may in fact be eligible for temporary release or even pardon. Human rights groups believe some of these detainees are actually political prisoners who were merely charged with common crimes, a claim strongly rejected by the government.

[Begin Drilon recording] We took exception to the statement that there are political prisoners in this country. [end recording]

Aside from Justice Secretary Drilon, the multisectoral committee will include the secretaries for local government and national defense, together with Chairman Sedfrey Ordonez of the Commission on Human Rights and a representative from the National Unification Commission to be selected by Chairperson Haydee Yorac.

Justice Secretary Drilon believes the work of the two committees will create a more conducive atmosphere for the government's peace initiative, an idea welcomed by human rights groups.

[Begin Drilon recording] The president said that total peace is the best Christmas gift that he can give to the Filipino people. I think the human rights community is pleased with the developments that happened this morning. [end recording]

The review committee is expected to submit its recommendations to the president within a week from next Monday, while the timeframe for the fact-finding committee to complete its work will be set by the Commission on Human Rights.

Their work may demonstrate the Ramos government's sincerity in upholding human rights, but human rights groups vow not to rest until the perpetrators of human rights abuses are tried for their crimes.

Bishop: Human Rights Violations Continue

HK0612071992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] There has been no improvement, and human rights violations are continuing in the country under the Ramos administration. This has been revealed by Bishop Ernie Camba of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines [UCCP] in connection with the celebration of Human Rights Week. The human rights violations under the new government, he said, are simply a continuation of what happened during the Aquino administration.

[Begin Camba recording in English] Well, the way we look at it, we have not yet completely changed. There are still human rights violations. We still take care of internal refugees, because we still have some of them in the three areas where our church is working, because of the war in the countryside. So there is yet no let-up in the human rights situation. [end recording]

On the other hand, Bishop Camba said he trusts the National Unification Commission's [NUC] efforts to achieve lasting peace in the country. Bishop Camba said they will closely monitor developments in the peace negotiations between the government and the rebels. Felix Carino, a member of UCCP and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, is one of the NUC members.

Rebel General Willing To Join Peace Talks

HK0512071692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] A top member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] [organization name as heard, in English] has expressed his willingness to participate in the peace talks with the government. The National Unification Commission [NUC] chairwoman Haydee Yorac has identified the RAM member as renegade Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel.

Yorac said Zumel has expressed his willingness to emerge from his hideout to participate in the government's peace initiative, which includes all rebel groups. Zumel has also met with Defense Secretary Renato de Villa to ensure the peace talks' success.

The NUC has also urged the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines [CBCP] and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines [NCCP] to lead national-level consultation and dialogue to speed up the peace process. De Villa said the CBCP and NCCP will serve as the conveners. He added that regional and provincial dialogues will be open to all rebels who have received safe conduct passes.

Meanwhile, the NUC will recommend President Ramos to set up a government panel which will formally negotiate peace with the military rebels. Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, an NUC member, has said that renegade Colonel Gregorio Honasan and Commodore Domingo Calajate will not sit on the rebel panel.

De Villa said that even Moro Islamic Liberation Front officials have expressed their readiness to negotiate peace with the government. The formal peace negotiations between the government and the rebel soldiers are expected to begin early next year.

Groups Agree to News Blackout During Talks

HK0712060292 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] and the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-AFP-YOU] have agreed that the scheduled peace talks should be kept secret in order to prevent premature publication that may adversely affect the peace initiative.

Attorney Homobono Adaza, lawyer of Brigadier general Edgardo Abenina, said no statement shall come from the RAM-SFP-YOU and the NUC, except for official statements to be made by NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac and RAM official spokesman Captain Danilo Lim.

Adaza added the peace process is expected to succeed through secret talks between the two groups since controversial statements will not be prematurely released .

AFP Provides NDF List of NPA-Held Soldiers

HK0712074892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] has sent the names of 30 soldiers being kept prisoner by the communist rebels to the National Democratic Front [NDF] headquarters in the Netherlands.

A report said eight of the 30 names belong to the Defense Department command, and six from the National Police; while the remaining 16 are civilian personnel in the government's campaign against insurgency.

The 30 soldiers and civilians come from nine regions across the country.

The report said the soldiers were kidnapped by communist rebels. However, the NDF maintained they were captured during encounters.

The government is hoping that the 30 prisoners listed in the report sent to the Netherlands NDF headquarters will be released as soon as possible.

Earlier, the NDF said it will act on the release of the prisoners.

NUC Warns Military on 'Overreacting' to Rebels

HK0812030592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] yesterday warned the Armed Forces against "overreacting" to communist rebels, saying "grossly disproportionate" military forces in counterinsurgency operations endanger not just the peace process but also innocent civilians. Haydee Yorac, NUC chairman, issued the warning even as the military stepped up its offensive against 500 New People's Army [NPA] guerillas holed up near the boundary of Bulacan, Rizal, and Quezon. Yorac, however, said there was "no evidence" yet the military is using an oversized force in this particular operation, now on its 10th day.

Camp Aguinaldo announced yesterday that three rebel couriers have been caught spying on two Marine battalions, a security battalion, and several police companies sent to pursue a big NPA band in Barangay Sta. Inez in Tanay, Rizal. No other details were given, and the Armed Forces headquarters has remained tightlipped about the operation.

Still, Yorac said Catholic bishops have complained to the NUC about "grossly disproportionate" troop deployments in several areas, particularly in Davao del Sur. She said the NUC, which oversees President Ramos' peace initiatives, has asked military officials to "adjust their tactics accordingly." "Where the Armed Forces is being disproportionate to the situation, you can bring this to our attention as a number of bishops had. We have made representations to the defense department to remove the overreaction," Yorac told provincial peace convenors in an orientation meeting at the Claret Formation Center in Quezon City. Representatives of the Church, government and NGOs attended Yorac's briefing.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, told a morning radio program that the operation was launched last week following reports that a big NPA group was massing in the area, just 30 kms east of Manila. So far, a soldier and two communist guerillas have been killed, military sources said. Three captured NPA couriers are also undergoing interrogation. They were identified as a certain Rey Guireba, Dante Alsera and Antonio de los Santos.

"Peace talks are going on as well as our field operations because they (NPA rebels) are also continuing theirs," Abadia said. Defense and military officials have said they are determined to establish "strategic control" over communist rebels. Military sources said four NPA camps have been overran in the thickly forested barangay of Sta. Inez. They said the NPA built the camps three years ago but the military monitored a build-up of rebel forces only in the early part of this year.

Because of its rugged terrain, the area is being used by NPA units from Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila for training as well as rest and recreation. Intelligence officers said the area was used in June and July for the training of assassins by the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the NPA guerilla unit operating in Metro Manila.

Lt. Col. Rolando Pestano, spokesman of the National Capital Region Defense Command, said residents of Barangay Sta. Inez had reported the presence of the NPA rebels who were allegedly collecting "revolutionary tax" from them. At least two MG-520 attack helicopters and several Huey helicopter gunships have been dispatched to Tanay to provide air support to the pursuing troops. According to intelligence reports, the main body of the NPA Melito Glor Command, which operates in Southern Tagalog, had withdrawn to the Bulacan-Quezon-Rizal boundary.

AFP 'Prepared To Stop' Operations Against Rebels

HK0812135392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief, announced today that the AFP is prepared to stop all its operations against communist rebels if Haydee Yorac, National Unification Commission chairperson, requests it.

In an interview in Malacanang, Abadia said he respects Yorac's opinion on how the AFP's overreaction in its counter-insurgency operations endangers the peace process and the lives of innocent civilians.

Earlier, Yorac warned the military against overreacting to communist rebels, saying the number of soldiers involved in its counter-insurgency operations is grossly disproportionate to the task. Yorac made this criticism following a military air and ground attack against an estimated 500 communist guerrillas holed up near the boundary of Bulacan, Quezon, and Rizal provinces.

The NUC chairperson said Catholic bishops have filed a report with her office, criticizing the massive deployment of military forces in some areas, especially in Davao del Sur.

NUC Rejects NDF Request for Talks in The Hague

HK0812032092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Juliet M. Labog]

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] has rejected a request by communist leaders for a second round of exploratory peace talks in the Netherlands, Tarlac Rep. Jose Yap said yesterday.

In a meeting yesterday, the nine-member commission agreed that exiled leaders of the National Democratic Front [NDF] should come to the country for the continuation of talks.

Yap, the President's emissary in the talks, also gave assurances that Luis Jalandoni, NDF vice chairman for international affairs who is now a Dutch citizen, will be given ample security during his stay here.

In a letter dated Nov. 21, Jalandoni asked Yap for a new round of talks to clarify the agenda for the formal peace negotiations.

The NUC had submitted a 10-point agenda as a counterproposal to the four-point agenda which Yap and Jalandoni signed during the exploratory talks last Sept. 31 in The Hague.

"Ang invitation nga eh kung pwedeng pumunta (si Jalandoni) para dito na lang mag-usap [The invitation was for Jalandoni to come back and talk here instead]," Yap said after the NUC meeting.

But sources said the government may be "flexible" and allow the new exploratory talks to be held in Hong Kong or Singapore.

In an earlier interview, Jalandoni had told the INQUIRER the NDF will agree to hold the talks in Brussels, Geneva or Hong Kong, where the NDF and the government held secret talks in 1990.

Formal talks to settle the 23-year communist insurgency was expected to be delayed anew because of the impasse over the agenda.

The NDF did not approve the revised agenda. Jalandoni criticized what he said was a case of "ambiguity and evasion" when the revised agenda was signed by Executive Secretary Edelmiro Amante and not President Ramos.

The NUC, Yap said, did not decide the other issues Jalandoni raised in his letter, including the request to negotiate the terms for a bilateral ceasefire for the Christmas season.

But NUC Chairman Haydee Yorac indicated that the government was content with its decision to declare a unilateral suspension of military operations for five days during the holidays.

In a meeting with provincial peace convenors yesterday, Yorac said it was better that a ceasefire not be made a precondition for the formal talks.

"We do not ask the Armed Forces to unilaterally desist operations, knowing that the (New People's Army guerrillas) are also operating, in fact may mga attacks ngayon sa mga kampo at tropa ng Armed Forces na isinasagawa ng NPA [In fact, there are some attacks currently being carried out by the NPA against the armed forces troops camps] and this is understandable because in anticipation of the formal peace talks, I think the NPA will now try to strengthen the position of the NDF when it sits down in the negotiating table," she said.

In the meantime "we continue to operate," she said.

As for Jalandoni's request to discuss the "mutual release" of prisoners before Christmas, Yap said, the NUC believes this need not be taken up anymore because the government is releasing political prisoners based on a set of guidelines.

"The guidelines (for the release) were already approved by the President and...he even expanded (the coverage)," Yap said.

It was not clear if all the 600 political prisoners, including those convicted of common crimes, qualify for the release and when they will be set free.

NDF Urges Ramos To Meet Nation's 'Basic Needs'

HK0812084092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has called on President Fidel V. Ramos to step up efforts to meet the basic needs of the nation, especially during the Christmas season.

NDF Secretary General Frank Fernandez said that instead of announcing that the insurgency will stop during the Yuletide season, the Ramos government should concentrate on giving food, jobs, and justice to the poor.

Fernandez said such government statements only create doubts in the minds of the nation, when a lot of people are going hungry because of the lack of livelihood opportunities.

At the same time, the NDF said the Yuletide celebration will only become relevant to the nation if Ramos will sign the Joint Declaration to start the peace talks in a neutral venue.

Thailand

Agreement Reached With Burma on Troop Pullout

BK0812131192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said the next round of talks with the Burmese Government will cover the demarcation of the border between the two countries and it will take time.

[Begin recording] [Chuan] I have not yet received an official report. However, the defense and foreign ministers informed me that both sides have agreed to begin moving troops from Hill 491 on 15 December. The withdrawal will be completed within 10 days.

[Unidentified reporter] Any special conditions?

[Chuan] No. The next step of the negotiations will deal with the demarcation of the border. The demarcation committee, chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries, will hold consultations later.

[Unidentified reporter] Up to this point, how does the government view the problem?

[Chuan] Thailand's borders with neighboring countries are thousands of kilometers long. In particular, the border with Burma is not clearly demarcated. We need time for negotiations and to settle the problems in different areas.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the committee report on the details of the agreement reached during today's talks with the government?

[Chuan] Yes, they will, but they are not yet home. We received a long-distance call from Burma. [end recording]

According to the latest report from the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri told reporters that the Burmese Government has agreed to withdraw its troops and military equipment from Hill 491 beginning 15 December. After the withdrawal is complete, a joint committee will be appointed to work on the demarcation of the border between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Prasong] The Defense and Foreign Ministries have received a report from Rangoon that the two sides have agreed to pull their troops out of the area during 15-25 December. This means no troops from either side will remain in the area. The next step is forming a joint border demarcation committee which will be headed by the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries. The committee will work out the demarcation operation which might involve sending technical teams for inspecting the border areas. The governments of the two countries will hold consultations on the matter later.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be done during the 10-day period?

[Prasong] Troop withdrawal. The withdrawal of Burmese troops will start on 15 December and be completed by 25 December. We have no troops in the area to be inspected by the joint border demarcation committee. [end recording]

Article Views Hill 491 Dispute With Burma

BK0812024392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 92 p 6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Hill 491: Once Bitten, Twice Shy"]

[Text] The dispute over Hill 491 in Chumphon is bound to become a litmus test of the Thai leaders' determination to deal with the new political landscape surrounding neighbouring countries which share borders with Thailand.

Following the failed border discussions in Chiang Rai recently, the Thai government has asked Rangoon to pull out its troops from the disputed hill to pave the way for peaceful negotiations. The Burmese government has yet to sigal a positive response to this demand.

Thai leaders, both civilian and military, said the scheduled discussions in Rangoon today on the controversy would result in something "positive". No one really knows for sure what that means and what the costs may be.

Thai leaders were caught offguard by Burma's lack of a positive response to Thailand's request to withdraw from the hill. Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, especially, was confident that the Burmese would comply and withdraw from the hill. They were absolutely wrong.

It is noteworthy that Chawalit, while he was army chief, was instrumental in "legitimizing" the Rangoon military junta in 1988 by becoming one of the first foreign digitaries to lend recognition to the regime with his official visit. Furthermore, he cooperated with Rangoon in suppressing the Burmese student movement in Thailand. The failure recently to convince the students to enter the "safe area" in Ratchaburi was to a large extent a result of their mistrust of Chawalit's current leadership at the Interior Ministry.

Over the weeks, Chawalit himself has been trying to down play the whole border episode while the military top brass have been telling reporters that Thailand was poised to use force if necessary to repel the Burmese troops.

Certainly, the Burmese junta cannot afford to go to war with Thailand and make a new enemy for itself—especially a war over a single border hill.

However that does not mean that Burma will easily give up Hill 491 without some hard bargaining. It is not difficult to understand that Rangoon's seizure of the hill, after having driven off the Karen rebels in February, was a calculated move.

In this case, Burma likely wants to use the former Karen stronghold it captured as a bargaining chip in its efforts to get Thailand to abandon its dual-track policy toward the ethnic minority which has waged war with the central government for the past four decades.

Rangoon knows full well that the survival of the rebels as forces to be reckoned with depends on Thailand's secret and not-so-secret assistance. The most effective message it can send Thailand is to capture hills or other areas along the poorly marked 2,400-km Thai-Burmese borderline, particularly in areas occupied by the rebels.

Be that as it may, Thai negotiators are going to Rangoon with their cards on the table, having pledged to avoid the use of force.

In the Thai context, it was rather unusual that the disputed hill had solicited comments from HM [His Majesty] the King, who has rarely, if ever, commented on international affairs.

This was the first time that the King had publicly counselled the Thai authorities on how to peacefully solve a territorial conflict. He recommended an approach whereby the two countries would withdraw from the disputed hill and develop the area jointly.

However, Burma's occupation of the hill has already stirred up anti-Burmese sentiment.

Several Thai leaders, including former military leaders, have invoked old hatred against Burma—considered Thailand's former arch-enemy, which sacked Ayutthaya, Thailand's ancient capital, twice. Ramkhamhaeng University students have protested in front of the Burmese Embassy, more often the site of anti-Rangoon protests by Burmese students-in-exile.

Like it or not Thailand's negotiations with Burma will be watched closely and carefully by Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia, all of which have border problems of varying degrees with Thailand.

Although the prospect of using force to resolve border disputes with neighbours cannot be discounted totally, the threat of war with countries like Malaysia or Laos virtually no longer exists. Friendship between both countries and Thailand has been established and dialogue mechanisms developed to avoid violent confrontations. Only Burma and Cambodia are possible causes for future concern. The current junta leaders in Rangoon may think they can shore up their sagging reputation at home by trying to whip up some patriotism over a border dispute.

The future of Cambodia is still quite uncertain; any new government in Phnom Penh will have to cope with a trouble-ridden 800-km land border with Thailand—almost all the demarcation posts vanished during the 14 years of conflict in Cambodia. No new Cambodian government is likely to be very flexible on any border negotiations.

In case Prince Norodom Sihanouk is chosen as president of Cambodia, which is very likely, future border negotiations could become especially troublesome.

A warning should be sounded over the inclination to use force if negotiations to settle border disputes fail. For some Thai military leaders, force is exactly what they have in mind. Eager to restore their lost integrity and dignity after the May bloodshed, a quick rout of Burmese forces on Hill 49, would be a "fulfilling mission".

But war, even a limited one, is not going to resolve the 491 problem. A long-term approach, based on mutual respect and patient discussion, will go much further toward solving this inherited problem.

Editorial Recommends Burma Leave Hill 491

BK0812103992 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 7 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Burma Must Think Carefully"]

[Text] A big war breaking out between Thailand and Burma will delight several countries, in particular the major powers. This is because their past efforts to impose pressure on Burma have failed to produce satisfactory results as Thailand and other ASEAN member countries have been supporting Burma. Therefore, Burma is recommended to unconditionally withdraw its troops from Hill 491. Otherwise, it will have to face several more waves of troubles.

Burma should think carefully in this regard. Obstinacy will only plunge that country into endless trouble with Thailand. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has reportedly declared that Thailand will first resort to negotiations, failing which military force will be used to repel the intruders. If the situation deteriorates to that level, Burma will be more isolated and the already unfortunate 50 million Burmese people will suffer the consequences of their government's erroneous decision.

We want to remind the Burmese Government to give up its claim on Hill 491, to withdraw its troops from the area, and to come to the negotiating table to settle the border dispute, not only on Hill 491 but also on other places along the common border. It must not let the situation be aggravated further and lead to the use of force between the two countries as the aftermath can be tremendously destructive and might even cause the collapse of the regime.

Fighting a war with Thailand for Hill 491 can bring calamity to Burma from both inside and outside. Dormant antigovernment elements inside and outside Burma will take the opportunity to rise up with financial and military aid from the major powers to topple the government. The Mon and Karen rebels as well as the Rohingya Muslim warriors with military support from the West will not hesitate to add more fuel to the flame.

Is the Burmese military regime ready for such an upside-down eventuality? We hope that during the meeting to resolve the Hill 491 dispute on Tuesday in Rangoon, the Burmese regime will not choose to lead its troops and people to hell by dragging its feet to prolong its occupation of the hill. This would have very dangerous results.

We really hope Burma will eventually withdraw its troops from Hill 491. His Majesty the King has suggested that both sides use the area for mutual benefit or leave it free of troops or officials from either side.

KR Sanctions Expected To Boost Border Crime Rate

BK0812021792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Dec 92 p A3

[Text] High-level fact-finding missions to Chanthaburi and Trat, the two Thai provinces to be hardest hit by UN trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR], have been told to expect an alarming surge in crime rates in the face of the embargo.

The fact-finding missions were led by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and members of the House committee on foreign affairs.

In Chanthaburi, which has two districts forming a 70-km chain adjacent to Khmer Rouge zones, there are two temporary crossing points in Soi Dai district for log transportation by two major logging companies and one temporary checkpoint at Baan Pakkard in Pong Ngarmron district for villagers' exchange of goods and visits.

At a briefing by Deputy Chief of Chanthaburi-Trat Task force Rear Admiral Trirat Chomanan, he said the Khmer Rouge, which controlled most areas opposite the two provinces, had reportedly withdrawn its troops deeper into Cambodia, in effect making a 15 km-wide demilitarized zone inside Cambodia along the whole 250-km-long stretch.

Trirat warned though that hardships caused by the UN trade sanctions may force the Khmer Rouge, which in the past was cooperative with the command in suppressing banditry, to roam the border and rob Thai villagers.

Trirat said with the current force, the command would not be able to completely seal the border if it was required to do so.

Aside from routine facilitating of the flow of goods and the passage of pickup trucks carrying workers and equipment to Cambodia, and checking for drugs and guns, command is now strictly checking for war weapons as Trat becomes a major transit route.

However, Trirat said there was currently little smuggling of vehicles into Cambodia and other robberies occurred only rarely.

Since the signing of the peace accord, the once fierce battleground between Khmer Rouge and Heng Samrin forces has been turned into a haven for gem and log traders.

In Trat, whose districts of Bo Rai, Kaoh Saming and Khlong Yai are adjacent to Khmer Rouge and Heng Samrin zones, there are two temporary crossing points—Baan Mamaung in Bo Rai and in Daan Khun Phol in Khao Saming—and one temporary checkpoint at Chong Meung Dann in Bo Rai.

There is also a permanent border point at Khlong Yai, opposite Koh Kong province in Heng Samrin territory.

Provincial authorities said about 80 per cent of about 30,000 residents of Bo Rai plus thousands of non-resident workers were engaged in gem mining in Cambodia.

Four major logging companies have entered into logging contracts with the Khmer Rouge opposite Bo Rai and would also be badly affected by the logging ban.

They also disclosed that about 60,000 litres of oil flowed daily through Bo Rai district to be used to operate about 400 Macros and other machinery employed in gem mining.

About 33 companies are involved in 130 gem mines in Cambodia, they said.

Dutch Marines, who were mandated by Untac [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to establish cantons in Khmer Rouge zones opposite the two provinces have been denied access to the area.

There are three Untac checkpoints there—two in Palin and one further south in Sok San. Most of about 15 personnel are military observers, though they are unarmed and lack mobility.

A military observer from India said he and his colleagues were being treated differently by the Khmer Rouge and had limited freedom of movement. He was nevertheless able to perform his duty.

A Thai trader said the Khmer Rouge had since August been preparing for self-reliance in view of expected UN sanctions.

He said the Khmer Rouge had hired Thai workers to dig wells in the areas around Pailin and asked for advice in farming and husbandry from provincial authorities.

The group reportedly had ordered a ban on vegetable imports from Chanthaburi to force its own people to grow vegetables themselves.

One military source estimated the Khmer Rouge could do without outside assistance for six months after the May elections. Enough weapons and provisions were already hidden away.

Against this backdrop, the UN's reputation as peacekeeper is at stake and the lives of Thai villagers are at risk.

Papers View Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge

BK0412122592

[Editorial Report] Three Bangkok dailies in Thai—MATICHON, SIAM RAT, and THAI RAT—on 3 December comment on the decision to enforce economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge and its repercussions on Thailand.

MATICHON's 450-word editorial on page 8 entitled "The Naiveness of the United Nations" notes that the primary objective of the United Nations economic sanction against the Khmer Rouge is to "force the Khmer Rouge to participate in the peace process in Cambodia" without considering what impact such punitive actions will have on the interests of other countries.

The editorial says: "The Security Council's resolution takes a great risk of dividing Cambodia. The resolution acknowledges the Khmer Rouge's control over certain areas and the people within and threatens to revoke voting rights of the people in those areas if the Khmer Rouge refuse to participate in the peace process and disarm. The division of Cambodia through revoking voting rights of the people can be attributed to the naiveness of the Security Council.

"The Khmer Rouge might deeply want the country to be divided since they know well that they will certainly lose in any national level election. They choose rather to retain their power in areas under their control.... It is questionable if the United Nations' punitive action will work with the Khmer Rouge."

The paper concludes: "The UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge will fail even with cooperation from the Thai Government. Unlike drug trafficking, clandestine [border] trade will continue. Naturally, the Thai Government will exert all efforts to solve the country's major problems rather than to enforce such an absurd resolution. The alternative for the United Nations is flexible political and diplomatic actions to persuade the Khmer Rouge to join its efforts in Cambodia; otherwise, it will accelerate the process of dividing Cambodia."

SIAM RAT's 400-word editorial on page 3, entitled "Thailand and the UN Resolution", reviews the essence of the United Nations economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge and how they will impact on Thailand's trade with the Khmer Rouge, which is worth billions of baht.

The editorial says: "Thailand will eventually have to cooperate with the United Nations in this regard. However, it must do its utmost to defend the interest of its trade with all factions in Cambodia. However, the foundation for Thailand's trade with Cambodia will become even more fortified if Cambodia has durable peace and stability, which is the final goal of the United Nations.

"The Thai Government must take into account the abovementioned fact and cooperate with the United Nations in bringing peace to Cambodia."

THAI RAT's 400-word editorial on page 3, entitled "Still Not Too Late", reviews the United Nations economic sanctions and the adverse consequences on Thai-Cambodian border trade and Thai investment in Cambodia. "As a matter of fact, the Thai Government should have taken certain actions to put pressure on or persuade the Khmer Rouge to comply with the Paris peace agreement long before the UN Security Council adopted such a resolution. By so doing, Thailand would have been able to defend its interests in Cambodia and would have been lauded for its sense of responsibility to the international community.

"Since the UN Security Council has adopted the resolution, we should prove to the world that the Thai Government has no intention of placing the country's economic gain over international peace. Both the government and private sectors must try to persuade the Khmer Rouge to come to the negotiating table and comply with the Paris peace agreement."

Paper Views Human Rights Issue in Cambodia

BK0712051992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 92 p 4

[By Withit Munthabon]

[Text] The Cambodian cauldron smoulders with each wisp of wind. And every wind of change seems to bring a new, caustic blow to the people's predicament and their human rights. For so long, and for other people's wrongs.

The genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge in the middle of the 1970s remains unaccounted for. At the end of that decade and during the next decade, Vietnamese forces occupied Cambodia in breach of the people's right of self-determination.

Warfare became a prolonged process whereby the ordinary people were subjected to innumerable sufferings, as the various Cambodian factions fought in the field for legitimacy and control of the country. The refugee outflow into neighbouring countries continued en masse. Unregulated migration flows from Vietnam complicated the issue further, sowing the seeds of the Vietnamese settler problem and local antipathy towards them. The

Cambodian people became the shadows of political power play, manipulated by the superpowers beyond. The haunting testimony of their suffering and insecurity is enshrined in the mounds of those killed, the sounds of those tortured, and the grounds of those catapulted by interminable minefields.

If such has been the holocaust, the protracted peace negotiations that led to the 1991 Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, or the Peace Accord, seemed to offer a ray of hope to extinguish the fiery conflict. A Supreme National Council consisting of all the Cambodian factions, including the Khmer Rouge, would be set up to pave the way for national elections. There would be withdrawal of foreign forces, ceasefire and demobilisation. Refugees and displaced persons would be able to return. All with international guarantees, bolstered most significantly by the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia or UNTAC.

And so, the Peace Accord was signed. The thousands of peacekeepers and civilian administrators of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] began to arrive in Cambodia. Yet, new twists to the tale began to appear, rendering the human rights issue more intractable. The Khmer Rouge have refused to disarm and still prevent access by others to their territory. They continue to increase their hold by use of force in breach of the Peace Accord. Attacks and killings persist in their search to subjugate the people to their cause of pseudo-nationalism.

The issue of the Vietnamese settlers has also become more inflammatory. Precisely because it is not dealt with in the Peace Accord, there is a loophole which is being exploited by some to incite racial discord and hatred. The porous border between Vietnam and Cambodia aggravates the issue, as new and unregulated arrivals from Vietnam jeopardise the livelihood of Cambodians. This has tragic consequences for those of Vietnamese origin who had settled peacefully in Cambodia long before the conflicts flared up in the 1970s.

To add insult to injury, some Thai policy makers and business interests have adopted a rapacious approach towards the whole affair. "Make a quick buck" seems to be the rationale for their political opportunism, whereby the lure of gems and natural resources from Cambodia are the pretext for supporting the Khmer Rouge and perpetuating their pugilistic stand vis a vis the rest of the community.

Such vacuous policy has been compounded by the recent arrogance shown towards the role of the United Nations in Cambodia. "We will abide by United Nations Resolutions against the Khmer Rouge only if they conform with Thai law and sovereignty" is a comment typical of the irresponsible attitude towards the United Nations and towards the Cambodian people. The blocking of logistical support for UNTAC, such as the cut-backs on United Nations flights to and from Cambodia, compounds the moral bankruptcy that has become an insensitive platitude.

So what are the threats to human rights and what is to be done? The range seems daunting:

—continuing threats from the Khmer Rouge and lack of accountability.

—insufficiency of sanctions against those committing crimes against others, and decline of law and order.

—deficient legal structure and laws to safeguard the community against human rights violations.

—precarious preparations for the projected national elections (May 1993) and fears that the various political parties will attack those who vote freely; the notion of a secret ballot is still unconvincing to many.

—unregulated flows of migrants from neighbouring countries and exploitation by business interests.

—competition for and conflict over land holdings.

And so on. A pervasive feature facing the whole community is the shadow of fear which looms over those who seek redress for human rights violations. Although various nongovernmental organisations have now emerged as defenders of human rights, they are naturally afraid of what will happen to them if and when UNTAC leaves.

Under the Peace Accord UNTAC itself has a key role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights. Its mandate covers: a) the development and implementation of a programme of human rights education to promote respect for and understanding of human rights; b) general human rights oversight during the transitional period; c) the investigation of human rights complaints, and where appropriate, corrective action.

Although it has an active programme on human rights education, witnessed most recently by the International Symposium on Human Rights in Cambodia (November 30-December 2) held in Phnom Penh, three major issues face the implementation of UNTAC's role in this field:

—inadequacy of remedies where human rights violations take place.

—uncertainty as to what will happen to monitoring and protection of human rights once UNTAC leave the country after the national elections.

—limited scale of human right education and services offered, due to limited resources.

The most thorny side of the work is probably the fact that there are more-often-than-not no effective legal sanctions in Cambodia for the whole range of human rights violations at stake. Political interventions can be useful at time , but they too have their limits especially wher the political grouping behind the violation refuses to cooperate. The only real sanction is through concerted international pressure backed by the highest organs of the United Nations, in the absence of local remedies.

At this juncture, therefore, it is important to maximise the role of the United Nations in Cambodia to promote and protect human rights so that the process becomes entrenched before UNTAC leaves the country. This has to be coupled with empowerment of local groups, particularly in the non-governmental sector, as part of "community watch" in the face of potential and actual transgressions by officials.

The spread has to be broadened at the local level so as to involve community leaders, such as monks, women's groups and agricultural associations, particularly in rural areas, to monitor against human rights violations and cross refer to national and international authorities to provide effective and alternative forms of redress. The press and the airwaves will also need to be liberalised to guarantee that ordinary people have various sources of information. If and when Parliament is established after the elections, it will have to ensure that it too has a mechanism such as an Ombudsman, to receive complaints and mobilise redress.

In the meantime, neighbouring countries and regional groupings, such as ASEAN, should use all their political muscle to reinforce the work of the United Nations by reining in their business interests which are exploitative of the Cambodian people and supportive of the Khmer Rouge.

In sum, the orientations for the future should be to propel the following:

1. The various parties of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the other signatories of the 1991 Peace Accord must abide fully by the provisions stipulated therein. Hostilities and human rights violations must cease accordingly. All measures must be taken to accelerate the return to peace and to respect human rights civil, political, economic, social and cultural in their totality.

2. The work of UNTAC in disseminating information on human rights and in overseeing implementation of human rights should be reinforced. This also entails its key role in investigating human rights complaints and the availability of corrective action .

3. In view of the security concerns facing the projected national elections and their aftermath, national and international mechanisms for monitoring and protecting human rights in Cambodia should be enhanced. These are all the more significant as Cambodia has acceded to a number of international human rights treaties in recent months, including the 1966 International Convention on refugees, and the 1990 International Convention on the Rights of the Child

4. As UNTAC already fulfills the role of a mechanism for monitoring and protecting human rights, its function should be promoted and continued effectively. In the event that UNTAC mechanism should be identified and/or established by the international community so as to have a field presence in the country. This should be undertaken in coordination with the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, and other concerned inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, in consultation with representatives of the Cambodian people. The proposal for the appointment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on Cambodia (already mentioned in the Peace Accord) should be supported and implemented so as to report on the human rights situation to the world community on a long-term basis.

5. Safeguards for the protection of human rights in Cambodia should be part of a sustained process to supervise a return to normalcy within the country. In regard to the national elections, independent election monitors—national and international—should be trained prior to the elections. They should be utilised as a monitoring mechanism to ensure free and fair elections, and correlative support should be provided to them.

6. The role of Cambodian non-governmental organisations, community groups and individuals in monitoring the elections and in promoting and protecting human rights should be fostered. The Supreme National Council should assist and facilitate their operations.

7. Dissemination of human rights through formal and non-formal education and the modalities of free and fair elections should be encouraged; it should be accessible to all people in Cambodia. The Supreme National Council should ensure that the mass media are used for this purpose in a manner consistent with the Peace Accord.

8. The international community, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations at the multilateral and regional levels, should provide financial, technical and other support to promote and protect human rights on a long-term basis to both governmental and non-governmental organisations in Cambodia. This may include visits by various observer missions to analyse issues within the country and to propose reforms, and training courses for human rights defenders and election monitors.

If the fiery hand of fate has been so cruel towards our friends in Cambodia for so long, it is our humble obligation to turn those cinders of casualty into new windows of opportunity now.

Pro-Democracy Groups Urge Public Restraint

BK3011023592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Pro-democracy groups yesterday appealed to the public to refrain from making harsh attacks on the Government, saying it would open the way for "the dictatorial cronies" to topple the Government.

"The dictators and their cronies are looking for an opportunity to stage a coup and rob us of our rights and freedom. We should unite to help the administration survive," San Kaeochusai chairman of the Campaign for Popular Democracy, said in his address to the meeting of the May victims' relatives at Thammasat University.

"It's the duty of the heroes' relatives to help protect this elected government so that its tenure will last as long as the Constitution allows. Otherwise, the vicious circle will return."

He said he was certain that dictatorship is doing everything possible to make a comeback. "There's a banner at the burnt-down building of the Public Relations Department which asks: 'Who burnt this?' This is clearly the dictatorial cronies' handiwork" he said.

In urging the public not to harshly criticise the Government, Mr San said the elected Prime Minister has felt gratitude towards the "democracy heroes." He praised Mr Chuan as having enough clout from his 23-year political experience to lead the Government. He also said the coalition partners are united behind him.

Many members of pro-democracy groups and political parties turned up yesterday in a ceremony to present financial assistance to relatives of the May victims. Among them were Phalang Tham Party's de facto leader Chamlong Simuang, University Affairs Minister Suthep Atthakon, Dr San Hathirat of the Confederation for Democracy [CFD], "slum angel" Prathip Ungsongtham-Hata, and Democrat Party member Ong-at Klamphaibun.

Maj-Gen Chamlong, while not openly appealing for support for the Government, warned the audience that there are groups of people who are deliberately distorting the truth about the May event to blame it on the pro-democracy side.

"I can affirm to you—we must stick to the truth—that we are in the right," he declared.

His statement was in response to a man who lost his son in the May violence who asked in despair for an assurance that his son stood on the right side. The man said he was dismayed by various comments from the Opposition calling those killed in the violence "riot agitators."

"There are people who are out to turn the truth around, making right into wrong," Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

He said he did not agree with the Amnesty Decree right from the start even though he, as well as some 3,000 demonstrators, would be protected under its umbrella.

Those involved in the May incident should go through the justice system and let the judge be the final arbiter, he said.

"We are ready to go to court," he said. "The May heroes' relatives can be confident that the May heroes did the right thing. Don't pay attention to those comments," he urged.

CFD chairman Dr San, meanwhile urged the public to use "social sanctions" against the military clique held responsible for the shooting of demonstrators in May. "We may not be able to take legal action against these people because of the Amnesty Decree, but we can employ social sanctions," he said.

"We won't greet them or talk to them if we happen to meet them. We won't work for them if asked to. We won't buy things from them. These measures will boost moral standard. Those who ordered the killings of people must not be allowed to appear respectable in society," he said.

Dr San ruled out the possibility of issuing a new legislation to revoke the controversial decree. "We have discussed this issue and found that it's not possible to apply the law retroactively," he said.

He added, however, that the relatives retain the right to file lawsuits against the perpetrators of the May violence. This is true especially for those whose affected loved ones were not directly involved in the demonstration.

Suphat Hasuwannakit, secretary-general of the Students' Federation of Thailand, said the Government should release to the public findings of the investigations into the May incident so that they may know who were behind the order to shoot the demonstrators.

"The Government should also come up with a more clear-cut policy on the issues of assistance to the families of the May victims and the construction of a monument for those who sacrificed their lives for democracy" he said.

Government Backtracks on AFTA Tariff Cuts

BK0812030392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Dec 92 p 21

[Text] The government is to delay for up to three years tariff cuts on 980 industrial products originally pledged by the Anan Panyarachun government as a gesture of Thailand's commitment to the creation of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

According to an informed source, the proposal to postpone the tariff cuts, originally due on January 1, comes from the Finance Ministry and is likely to be agreed by the Cabinet.

At the ASEAN summit in Singapore in January, Mr Anan promised to set a tariff ceiling of no more than 30 percent on all products imported from other ASEAN countries. This was a unilateral gesture in response to criticisms that Thailand has the highest tariff rates in the region.

According to the source the cuts on the 980 products will be phased in by 1996.

It was unclear last night what proportion of all the industrial products currently protected by tariffs of more than 30 percent would continue to be protected under the proposed delay. The proportion was understood to be substantial, but much depends on how the 980 products are defined.

Industries facing tougher competition from lower tariff barriers have expressed anxiety about their ability to survive, particularly if they are unable to enjoy matching cuts in the costs of their raw materials.

In many cases this would also require cuts in tariffs on the raw materials proportionate to the cuts on finished products. But these cuts would not necessarily take place under Mr Anan's pledge because raw materials and intermediate products are often charged tariffs that are already less than 30 percent.

Although ASEAN ministers are due later this week to complete preparations for the first round of AFTA tariff cuts, delaying reductions on the 980 items will not cause resentment among the five other members, the source argued.

He said the other tariff cuts will proceed according to the AFTA schedule.

Under the AFTA agreements signed in January, tariffs on all goods traded within AFTA, except unprocessed agricultural products, will fall to 0-5 percent within 15 years starting this January 1. Fifteen product groups have been earmarked for accelerated reductions to 0-5 percent within 10 years if the current tariffs exceed 20 percent or within seven years if the tariffs are currently 20 percent or less.

The agreements envisage gradual reductions in steps of five percentage points at a time. Individual countries are allowed to delay their reductions but whether or not the final deadlines for 5 percent tariffs will stand will not decided until the year 2000.

Some officials warn that ASEAN members are most likely to stick to the deadlines, meaning that products whose cuts have been delayed will face sharp tariff reductions later in order to meet those deadlines.

Thailand is seeking a delay the first tariff cut steps on six products under the accelerated "fast-track" AFTA programme. They are: petrochemicals products, electronic parts and components, palm oil, soybean oil, coconut oil and plastic products.

Officials say the six "products" are defined at the six-digit coding level of the international Harmonised System used for customs classification. This is considered a moderately broad level that could lead to objections from other ASEAN countries, according to some sources.

The broadest coding level of the Harmonised System is the single-digit level which roughly-speaking defines entire product sectors. A code of eight or nine digits is used for a narrow definition of a product.

In a related development, the Foreign Ministry has asked Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap to be a member of the Thai delegation for the December 11-12 meeting in Jakarta of ministerial council on AFTA. Previously fellow-deputy minister Phaithun Kaeothong represented the Commerce Ministry in AFTA affairs, but Mr Phaithun is in Rotterdam on a business visit. The Thai delegation will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchapak.

King Addresses Well-Wishers at Grand Palace

BK0512095192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Speech by King Phumiphon Adunyadet delivered during a gathering at the Grand Palace on the occasion of his 65th birthday on 5 December—recorded]

[Text] I am elated to see you all here today to extend your good wishes to me on my birthday. I thank members of the nobility, the prime minister, the president of the National Assembly, government officials, civil servants, and military personnel as well as members of Parliament for your generous and amiable wishes. I also sincerely extend my best wishes to you.

Despite their preference for comfort, their generally complacent attitude, and their easy-going nature, most Thai people, deep down inside are rational, disciplined, sincere, and conscious of national interests. Hence, we have been able to maintain a solid existence and remain united. As a result, our country has been an independent and stable state since time immemorial. We have done good deeds and brought prosperity to our nation. At present, it is apparent that our country is facing problems and shortcomings in nearly all circles. This is a clear indication for everyone and every circle to subdue the tendency toward self-centeredness and arrogance and to strive resolutely for reason and righteousness as well as a sense of responsibility toward the nation. This is so we can eliminate ill intentions and promote unity and mutual generosity so that we will be able to accelerate our joint efforts to expeditiously fulfill our undertakings for our mutual interest and to achieve the noble goal of maintaining and preserving forever our independence, sovereignty, and Thai identity.

I pray to the holy triple gems [Lord Buddha, his noble teachings, and Buddhist monks] and all the sacred beings worshipped by the Thai people for protection, well-being, happiness, safety, and mental and physical health so that you will be able to carry out the tasks of the nation and lead the country to overcome obstacles and achieve prosperity.

Senate Delays Scrapping Internal Peacekeeping Act

BK0512022992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] The Seate yesterday effectively delayed by at least two months the passage of a government-sponsored bill to scrap the controversial Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act.

It resolved to set up a special committee to scrutinize the document for 30 days before deciding whether to accept or reject the draft legislation which was passed in three straight readings by the House of Representatives on Nov 26.

The act empowers the prime minister to appoint the supreme commander as the internal peacekeeping director to deal with civil unrest virtually independently.

The Anan II government suggested that the act be annulled following its invocation to deploy soldiers to brutally crack down on pro-democracy demonstrators in May, culminating in the killing of at least 46 people. The Anan government said police should replace the military to deal with civil unrest.

Although the Senate resolved to study the bill for 30 days, the exercise could practically delay the legislation's passage for at least two months.

The scrutiny is scheduled to be over by early January but this parliamentry ordinary session will expire on Dec 20. An extra-ordinary session is scheduled in Februar for the passage of the 1993 Fiscal Year's Budget Bill.

Senate Speaker Michai Ruchupan said yesterday that the bill might be taken up during the extra-ordinary session .

But if the Senate rejects the bill during that particular session, it would be returned to the House. However, if parliament is too busy considering the budgets to confirm its decision to pass the bill to abrogate the peacekeeping act, its passage may have to be walt until it reconvenes an ordinary session in May.

The Senate formed the ad hoc panel following heated debate by several senators against the bill.

First Army Region Comander Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Chettha Thanacharo was the only one in the upper House who spoke in support of the bill. Soldiers from the first regional command were deployed to crush the protesters when the agency was headed by Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi.

Chettha said he was the one who would be affected directly by the dissolution of the peacekeeping act.

"But I think the bill is suitable for the current situation," Chettha said.

"We now have an elected government and quite complete democracy so the act should be abrogated. We have other measures to deal with civil unrest."

Most of the senators who attacked the bill were right-wing conservatives. The right-wing movement had played a leading role to suppress the student movement in 1976. The act was promulgated the same year by the Thanin Kraiwichian government following a bloody crackdown on students.

Nanthaka Supraphatana said she thought that the current political atmosphere was "unstable". And if the act was scrapped, the administration would not have the power to suppress civil disturbances as effectively and as swiftly, as by invoking the act. Dusit Siriwan said hedid not think that police were now ready to replace he military to deal withcivil unrest.

"In the current situation, unrest can erupt any time," Dusit said.

How can we be assured that the government will be able to tackle violence as soon as it breaks out. The government should be much more concerned about national security than its own stability."

Somphop Hotrakit said the May bloodshed had influenced the Chuan Government to "incorrectly think that the peacekeeping act is bad".

He said he thought police would be unable to handle political turmoil because war weapons could be purchased easily in Thailand.

"How can police armed with batons fight with rioters carrying war weapons" Somphop said. Phansak Wannaphong said the peace-keeping act was issued in the interest of the country by the then prime minister who was a legal expert following two political upheavals in 1973 and 1976. The student movement toppled the dictatorial Thanom Kittikachon regime in 1973 when scores of students were killed.

Phansak said there was no guarantee that similar incidents would not reoccur.

"By its own nature, the act is not dictatorial ... but is useful to the country," Phansak said.

Gen Surin Thuklap alleged that the government wanted to please the public much more than care about the country's interest in its attempt to abrogate the peacekeeping act.

Responding to the senators Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak said the government still had three other acts to deal with the civil unrest after the peacekeeping act is no more.

Wichit said the government could declare a state of emergency, or impose martial law or invoke the defence act to deal with any civil violence.

"The administration will be able to handle civil unrest," Wichit said. "If not, the government can invoke the defence act to seek help from the military."

The defence minister said the peacekeeping act should be scrapped because it gave power to only two persons—the supreme commander and the prime minister. Addressing the Senate, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said the political landscape had changed a lot, so obsolete laws had [to] folllow suit to be more democratic.

Chuan said it would be difficult to control the repercussions arising from authorizing military forces to suppress civil disturbances.

The prime minister said the Defence Councils, whose members are the top brass, also agreed to abrogate the peacekeeping act.

"From now on, the government will be in charge of handling civil unrest," Chuan said. But the military will still be allowed to suppress rebellion.

Lack of Infrastructure Slows Development

BK0412025992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 92 p 21

[Text] Thailand must strengthen and expand its national educational, research and development infrastructure as well as offer technology transfer incentives, otherwise it will not be able to compete in the world market.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuai Wirawan sounded this warning yesterday when he addressed the 14th Asia Pacific Forex Assembly in Bangkok.

In a speech entitled "Development in the Technical Era" he said he realises that much will depend on Thailand's ability to develop its human resources as well as its indigenous and transferred technology base.

In the past Thailand has grown because of cheap labour and abundant resources but in future growth will depend on education and technology.

"We are fully aware of the fact that the two basic reasons for our remaining a developing country are firstly the inadequacies of our education, where a relatively low percentage of our children receive education beyond primary level and, secondly, the slow improvement of our democratic institutions.

"We realise that limited education and low-level income in rural areas impede development of our democratic system."

As a result of the country's recent national election, which returned a popularly-elected government to power, Thailand is enjoying a new sense of freedom and democracy, he said.

The coalition Government presented its policy statement to Parliament six weeks ago.

He said it is worth noting that Thailand has identified three major development objectives, promoting better income distribution and economic prosperity in rural areas, achieving sustainable national development and a better quality of life by improving the environment, and enhancing Thailand's position and role as a regional economic and financial hub.

Despite Thailand's strident advances to industrialisation, the country is still basically agricultural. Therefore, a major problem contributing to the ever-widening gap of income distribution is the trend of depressed prices for farm produce.

Because of this price discrepancy between farm and non-farm products, rural workers have not been able to share the fruits of national development in proportion to their efforts.

Consequently, the government, in its policy statement, has made a firm commitment to raise the prices of farm products for the benefit of all rural workers, he said.

This is to be done through a more efficient market mechanism and effective market intervention measures. Obviously, the government of any developing nation with a large farming sector is not in a financial position to subsidise agriculture to the same extent as Europe, Japan and the US.

"Our Government is, of course, closely watching the outcome of the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations. As an agricultural, food-exporting country, we naturally stand to benefit from the successful conclusion of a GATT trade agreement in which agricultural protection and subsidies in major trading nations will be reduced significantly."

In recent years, especially, Thailand has become oriented to the international community to a far greater extent. This can be seen by the fact that its international trade volume has increased to 75 percent of GDP.

"And with our GDP expanding at an average rate of 7.5 percent or more, and annual exports and imports rising at 14 percent and 12 percent on average, respectively, it is expected that by the year 2000 Thailand will export about 34 percent-35 percent of its total national output, and import the same equivalent, thus eliminating its persistent current account deficits.

"We have set ourselves ambitious targets—and not without reason. These economic goals will enable us to become a significant economic nerve-centre in this region, encompassing the countries in Indochina and ASEAN. Quite simply, we aspire to become an economic hub for trade, investment, services and, of course, finance," he said.

Opposition To Seek Government Censure

BK0712040392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The Opposition will cite lack of results in the Government's parliamentary work to launch a "censure-like debate" against the Chuan Likphai administration during the Budget Bill debate next week, reliable sources told the *Bangkok Post* yesterday.

Opposition sources said since the Parliament opened in September the Chuan Government has failed to complete the deliberation of a single bill, a point the Opposition will cite to justify their broadside against the

Government when the Budget Bill is debated in the House of Representatives during December 16-17.

Seritham Party spokesman Phinit Charusombat confirmed the move and said the Opposition would hold a meeting tomorrow to prepare for the budget debate.

"Each party is preparing its own team of experts to brief them on the budget. The points the Opposition intend to raise will not be very different from a no-confidence debate," Mr Phinit said.

He said this was especially true as far as the Government's performance was concerned. It has failed to produce anything concrete so far. "This is a weak point because the people had placed very high hopes on the Government to solve the problems affecting them and the country," the Nong Khai MP said.

He blamed the poor performance on Prime Minister Chuan's failure to act decisively on key issues. "The Government has a lot of financial experts and bankers but all the work goes to the Prime Minister and he is a man who dares not make a decision," he said.

Mr Phinit reminded that the Opposition was not insisting on concrete work results since the Government has only been in office for a short period.

"The Opposition expected the administration to announce how it would proceed with key projects like the Skytrain, the telephone expansion scheme and the shortage of water throughout the country," he added.

He said the ministries targeted for attack during the budget debate are Interior, Agriculture and Foreign.

Seritham leader Dr Arthit Urairat, a former foreign minister, is preparing himself to grill current Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. Likewise, the Chat Phattana Party is holding a seminar in Chiang Mai on Friday to prepare for the key debate.

Deputy House Speaker Thawin Praison (Phalang Tham) admitted that the current Parliament has not much to show about its legislative work.

The deputy speaker, who is responsible for scheduling bills for House debate, said this was because the schedule had not reached them yet but a lot of other motions have been debated. The Government also has not sponsored many bills and all the financial bills the MPs have proposed must be first approved by the Prime Minister.

Those debated already were old bills that were brushed up and resubmitted or minor amendment bills, but the new ones take time to draft, particularly the controversial ones like the Tambon Council Bill, he said.

"It's not really that this House has done little work. There have been several motions that concern the people that have been debated. They will be used to guide the administration of the country," Mr Thawin said.

The crash helmet law passed by the Anan Panyarachun government and due to become effective December 15, is also facing delay while the government bill to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act, used by the Suchinda Khraprayun government to suppress pro-democracy protests in May is facing a sure delay in the Senate.

Opposition MPs said in fact most of the key motions debated in the House to set up a special committee to study constitutional amendments, the stock market manipulation, the border situation, the drought, the low prices of agricultural goods were their efforts.

Only four more House meetings are scheduled before Parliament goes into recess after the first reading of the Budget Bill. A special session would be called next year for the second and third readings of the bill.

Vietnam

Defense Minister's Departure for PRC Reported

BK0712145492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Our country's military delegation led by General Doan Khue, minister of national defense, left Hanoi on 7 December for an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of China [PRC] at the invitation of Chinese Minister of National Defense Senior Lieutenant General Qin Jiwei.

NHAN DAN, Army Paper Hail Li Peng's Visit

BK0712151392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[From the Press Review Program]

[Text] NHAN DAN, in its Sunday 6 December issue, carries an article on new progress in the Vietnam-China relations of friendship and cooperation. The article says: Chinese Premier Li Peng's official friendship visit to Vietnam from 30 November to 4 December is an important event in the relations of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China. The visit was made one year after the Vietnam-China Summit in Beijing that officially normalized relations between the two countries.

During talks between SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and PRC Premier Li Peng, both sides noted the remarkable development in bilateral relations during the past year and more.

Meanwhile, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, in an article entitled "Continue to Consolidate and Develop the SRV-PRC Relations of Friendship and Cooperation," says: Reviewing developments during the past year since the November 1991 Vietnam-China Summit in Beijing, relations between the two countries have been truly normalized and encouraging achievements have been scored. Exchanges of visits by delegations of parties, states, sectors, and localities of the two countries have been made with an aim to expanding cooperation in the economic, cultural, and scientific-technological domains in conformity with the aspirations and interests of both sides. A number of stipulations in the previously signed eight agreements concerning trade, post, and telecommunications have been implemented, thereby bringing about initial results. The Vietnam-China border trade as well as export-import values between the two countries have remarkably increased. We are very pleased to note the positive development in the process of normalizing relations between the two nations and hope that SRV-PRC friendship and cooperation will be further consolidated and developed.

Sanctions Against Khmer Rouge 'Indispensable'

BK0812141592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Commentary by Quang Minh: "Necessary Countermeasures"]

[Text] On 30 November in New York, the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] adopted a new resolution on Cambodia under which a limited oil embargo has been imposed on the Khmer Rouge for its refusal to abide by the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Specifically, all sources of oil supply to the Khmer Rouge will be cut off and more UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] border checkpoints will be set up to enforce the order. The resolution also threatened to freeze Khmer Rouge assets in foreign countries if this faction continues to refuse to participate in the peace process by 31 January next year, which is the deadline for the general election registration. The UNSC also considered suspending the export of mineral products and precious gems to preserve Cambodia's natural resources. This is a similar move adopted by the UNSC last September to ban wood exports.

We regard this new UNSC resolution on Cambodia as a necessary measure adopted by the world community to ensure that the Paris agreement on Cambodia is carried out as scheduled.

It is clear that after more than a year of supervising the implemention of the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the United Nations, represented by UNTAC and its head Mr. Akashi, has exerted some efforts. For example, it has deployed 16,000 United Nations peacekeepers and more than 5,000 civilian officials to supervise the existing administrative structures in most parts of the Cambodian territory except for those areas under Khmer Rouge control. Together with the Supreme National Council [SNC], it has convened many meetings and reached many important decisions, including a ban on racial discrimination, application of measures to guarantee human rights, and preparatory work for the elections. It has registered more than 2 million voters, repatriated about half of the 350,000 Cambodian refugees, organized a conference in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss Cambodia's reconstruction, and received the world community's commitment to provide nearly $900 million in aid for Cambodia's reconstruction and development.

As for military issues, UNTAC has confirmed that 52,913 troops belonging to three factions have been demobilized along with 53,100 weapons being turned in. As for the Cambodian state alone, it has accounted for as much as four-fifths of the number of the abovementioned troops and weapons. UNTAC has also confirmed the nonexistence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge has categorically refused to participate in the second phase of the cease-fire. To date, they have neither demobilized troops nor turned in weapons. Worse still, they have resorted to force to attack and threaten UNTAC personnel on duty.

Facing such a situation, the UNSC issued Resolution 738 criticizing the Khmer Rouge for its brazen attitude and confirming that the date of the elections in Cambodia will remain unchanged with or without Khmer Rouge participation. Now the UNSC has adopted a new resolution imposing economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge. These facts indicate that the UNSC and UNTAC have taken actions. Public opinion, however, maintains that these actions are insufficient in terms of timeliness and binding. In his book entitled "How Did Pol Pot Gain Power?" Mr. (Balkianya), a professor of Southeast Asia History at Yale University, wrote: The United Nations' lack of firmness in accelerating the peace process has encouraged the Khmer Rouge to disregard the Paris agreement. He also stressed that the United Nations repeated extension of one deadline to another to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process without adopting strong punitive measures has caused Pol Pot to maintain an arrogant attitude. Mrs. Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and a supporter of the Khmer Rouge's being a signatory of the Paris agreement, admitted that she was wrong because the Khmer Rouge regard the Paris agreement as an opportunity for their troops to infiltrate more deeply into many localities in Cambodia where they had previously been chased away like criminals.

Due to the Khmer Rouge's refusal to disarm troops and return weapons, the peace process in Cambodia has entered a new serious crisis stage. This is the very reason for the UNSC to adopt new resolutions on Cambodia. We believe that these countermeasures are indispensable and hope that they will have an effect. Vietnam has always made the greatest efforts, coordinating with the world community to guarantee conditions for the Paris agreement on Cambodia to be fully implemented.

Vice Premier Attends Reception at Thai Embassy

BK0612141592 Hanoi VNA in English 1353 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 6—Thai Ambassador and Mrs Suraphong Chayanam gave a reception here yesterday evening to mark the 65th anniversary of the birthday of the king and the National Day of Thailand.

Among his guests were Vice-premier Tran Duc Luong, Minister of Science, Industry and Environment Dang Huu, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, and members of diplomatic corps and representatives of international organisations in Hanoi.

Guests and host, raised toasts to the further consolidation and development of the friendship, cooperation and good neighbourliness between Vietnam and Thailand in the interests of the two peoples, of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the happiness and prosperity of the two peoples.

Nong Duc Manh Attends Lao National Day Function

BK0812100792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organizations and the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association Central Committee jointly held a function at the Hanoi Friendship House on the morning of 1 December to mark the 17th National Day of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Representatives from the party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other organs at the central level and in Hanoi attended the function.

Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the National Assembly, and president of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association, delivered a speech hailing the achievements in the cause of national defense and construction of the multiethnic Lao people over the past 17 years.

The comrade stressed: Together with the multiethnic Lao people, the people of Vietnam pledge to do our utmost to strengthen, consolidate, and develop friendship and cooperation between our two fraternal peoples to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation.

In his reply, Lao Ambassador Khamphet Phengmeuang confirmed the unchanged solidarity of the government and multiethnic Lao people to the Government and people of Vietnam. The comrade stressed: The party, the government, and the multiethnic Lao people pledge to follow the teachings of late President Kaysone Phomvihan by striving to contribute to the solidarity and cooperation of Vietnam and Laos, which was painstakingly built by President Ho Chi Minh, eternally green and everlasting.

Justice Ministry Delegation Visits France

BK0712105992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] A delegation of our country's Ministry of Justice led by Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc visited France from 17-24 November 1992 at the invitation of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France and the Paris Bar Association. The delegation participated in the solemn activities marking the annual traditional judiciary festival of the Paris Bar Association and had working sessions with French law enforcement and judiciary agencies.

Ministers Nguyen Dinh Loc, Michel Vauzelle, and Catherine Tasca signed a statement on the objectives of legal and judiciary cooperation between the two countries on 23 November, in the framework of an agreement on cultural and scientific-technical cooperation between Vietnam and France, on behalf of the Vietnamese and French Ministries of Justice and the French Ministry of Francophone Affairs and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc and President of the Paris Bar Association (Blechur) signed an agreement on training assistance to Vietnamese lawyers by the Paris Bar Association. On this occasion, Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc also had a working session with His Excellency (Roi), secretary general of the Organization for Cultural and Technical Cooperation with Francophone Countries, exchanging views on legal and juridiciary cooperation between Vietnam and this organization. His Excellency Secretary General (Roi) assured Minister Nguyen Dinh Loc of the organization's readiness to provide the Vietnamese court and law enforcement agencies with more training assistance, legal documents, and technical equipment.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With France

BK0612130192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Vietnam and France signed in Hanoi on Thursday two memorandums on cooperation in communications and transport and on sea economic development. These agreements are aimed at accelerating the cooperation in the fields of ship repairing and building, personnel training, as well as seeking possibilities to cooperate in fishery between the two countries.

Women's Union Delegation Visits France, Sweden

BK0212153392 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2—A delegation of the Vietnam Women's Union led by President Mme Truong My Hoa attended the 17th Congress of the French Women's Union held in Paris on Nov. 28-29. On Nov. 30, the delegation joined a consultative meeting of the Women's International Democratic Federation. While in France, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a delegation of the French Women's Union led by General Secretary Mme Silvie Jan. It was received by Gisele Moreau, Politburo member and secretary of the French Communist Party Central Committee, Mme Helene Luc, head of the Communist group in the French Senate and some other senators.

Earlier on Nov. 24-25, the delegation visited Sweden at the invitation of the Swedish Social Democratic Women's Union. It held talks with the Swedish Social Democratic Women's Union, the Left Women's Union, a number of women senators, leading officials of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), the Olof Palme Centre and the Raddar Barnen (Save the Children) Society.

CPV Delegation Visits Italy, Meets Officials

BK0512073592 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 5—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] led by Dao Duy Tung, Politburo member and secretary of the party central committee, visited Italy from Nov. 27 to Dec. 3 at the invitation of the Left Democratic Party of Italy.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Left Democratic Party led by Politburo member and Secretary of the Party Central Committee Antonio Bassolino, and a delegation of the Communist Party (Reformation) led by General Secretary Sergio Garavini.

Dao Duy Tung and his delegation led working sessions with F. Piecolli, member of the leadership of the Christian Democratic Party and chairman of the External Relations Commission of the Senate, senior officials of the International Commission of the Italian Socialist Party, the Foreign Ministry, the Italian General Confederation of Labour, and the League of Cooperatives.

Palestinian Leader Sends Thanks for Support

BK0712152792 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 7 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 7 - Palestinan president Yasir 'Arafat today thanked the Vietnamese people for their support and solidarity with the Palestinian people's just struggle and reaffirmed the Palestinian people's determination to continue the fight for the right to self-determination and to establish an independent state of Palestine.

He was replying a message of Senior-Lieutenant General Nguyen Nam Khanh, president of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity With the Palestinian People, who congratulated him on the occasion of the day for solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Reportage on National Mass Mobilization Conference

Do Muoi Attends 26 Nov

BK0612095992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 26 November, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi visited and cordially addressed delegates to the national mass mobilization conference currently being held in Hanoi.

On behalf of the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee Secretariat, the comrade general secretary welcomed the initial results of the implementation of the Sixth Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Eighth Plenum and Seventh CPV Central Committee Third Plenum resolutions on mass mobilization work. He pointed out: Realities over the past several years indicate that the mass mobilization work has made important progress, contributing to the success of the common renovation undertaking of the entire nation. These initial yet very significant achievements have further testified to the fact that the ongoing revolutionary cause truly belongs to, comes from, and benefits the people, and that the party-led comprehensive renovation work also serves the people's interests.

Next, he made this remark: Apart from these achievements, the mass mobilization work still displays shortcomings in plans of action and operating procedures. This is particularly true if one takes into account the fact that compared to the general situation, no quick efforts have been made to renovate the activities of the front and mass organizations.

Vu Oanh Speaks; Conference Ends

BK0812060192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] A national conference on mass mobilization, which was held by the Party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department, ended on the afternoon of 28 November. The conference was attended by Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau.

Implementing the Party Central Committee's third plenum resolution, the conference assessed the achievements and existing shortcomings in the implementation of the resolution on renovating the party's mass mobilization work and strengthening the relations between the party and people and, on that basis, determined the guidelines for mass mobilization work in the new stage. This was aimed at effecting a uniform change in mass mobilization work of the party, state, and mass organizations in support of the country's renovation process and the struggle to make the people prosperous and country powerful and firmly maintain national security and sovereignty.

Summing up the conference, Comrade Vu Oanh said: Faced with the new situation, mass mobilization work must undergo new changes in order to educate and encourage the people of all strata to unite with and assist each other in protecting their legitimate interests, as well in making the party and administration pure and strong.

All organs and mass organizations must change their mass mobilization methods with the aim of successfully mustering the people's integrated strength to make the country prosperous and powerful, while actively participating in the struggle to prevent and eliminate corruption and smuggling. Mass mobilization work must be carried out in such a way as to serve the interests of the people and the purposes of the country's renovation process.

Conference Reviewed

BK0712112392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] A national mass mobilization conference was held in Hanoi from 24-28 November to review and discuss measures to implement the sixth party Central Committee eighth plenum resolution on renovating mass mobilization work and strengthening relations between the party and people.

Attending the conference were the comrade members of the party Central Committee, ministers in the Mass Mobilization Central Council, delegates from provinces and cities throughout the country, and representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee, mass organizations, ministries, and departments and sectors at the central level. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Political Bureau, attended and personally directed the conference. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi attended and expressed his views to the conference.

The delegates heard a report of the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department on the initial results of the implementation of the party Central Committee eighth plenum resolution and mass mobilization work for the 1993-94 period, the orientations for renovating the structures and operating procedures of the front and mass organizations, the regulations governing the organization of local mass mobilization committees, and the resolution on religion-related work.

Nguyen Duc Binh Attends Mass Media Seminar

BK0812064992 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 8 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 8—A seminar entitled 'Mass Media in the Fight Against the Scheme of Peaceful Evolution' was held here on Dec. 7 by the Vietnam Journalists' Association.

Among those present at the seminar was Nguyen Duc Binh, politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

The dozens of reports delivered at the seminar affirmed that as an efficient weapon on the ideological and cultural front, the mass media has actively propagated Marxism-Leninism and the Ho Chi Minh thought and given wide publicity to the achievements recorded by the party and state in the renovation policy. At the same time it has laid bare the schemes and manoeuvres of the antisocialist forces who want to negate the party's leadership and divert Vietnam from the socialist path. The speakers laid stress on the need to step by step renovate the contents, mode and method of operation of the mass media in order to enhance ideological education among party cadres and members and the entire people about the targets of renovation.

Vo Van Kiet Writes to Retirees on Corruption

BK0312101792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's 16 November letter to the Retired Cadres Liaison Committee of De Tham Ward, Thai Binh city, on corruption and smuggling]

[Text] I have read the letter dated 25 October addressed to me by 600 retired cadres of De Tham Ward, Thai Binh City, that was also published in the No. 46 issue of DAI DOAN KET (Great Unity) Journal. I would like to thank retired uncles and other comrades of this ward.

Following my presentation of the government's program of action to the First Session of the Ninth National Assembly and after the news of my report at the first conference of the government on 17 October, I received letters from veteran revolutionaries, war veterans, retired cadres, and officials of various sectors. Some of them who met me personally expressed similar views and their strong support for the government lines and policies to eliminate corruption, smuggling, waste, and other social vices.

Retired cadres of De Tham Ward, Thai Binh city, in a letter to me also expressed their strong support for the Government in this regard. The identity of views and support of the people of various strata for these very important party and state lines and policies attest to their confidence in our system. This is indeed a great encouragement for the government to be resolute in this task. However, I realize that the people of various strata are waiting anxiously for drastic action from the government against some serious corruption and smuggling cases. It is necessary to say that the struggle to eliminate corruption, embezzlement, abuse of power, law violations, illegal activities, smuggling, tax evasion, waste, and other social vices, is a difficult and complicated task. Time and energy is needed in solving it and it cannot be done overnight.

We must resolutely fight these vices and gradually eliminate all of them. This will not only help clear obstacles in the national development program, it will also help uphold our cultural values and build a modern lifestyle for our society. The struggle itself will also help create a fine and healthy relationship between state personnel and the people.

Government and law enforcement agencies cannot carry out this task alone. Everyone's help is required. This job also demands close coordination among state agencies, mass societies, and mass media organizations at the central and provincial levels. Efforts must also be made to quickly eliminate all these social vices at sectors, echelons, and in localities. Drastic measures must be taken in serious cases and against those who intentionally violate the law, while leniency should be extended to the repentant or the corrupt who give themselves up and return the money or items they have obtained illegally.

Corruption, smuggling, and other social vices are widespread at echelons and sectors and in localities. But there are also many honest cadres who work selflessly for the people, lead healthy lives, fight for justice, and abide by the law. The victory of our people's revolutionary cause will depend on this contingent of cadres. Therfore, there must be efforts to support and protect these cadres, while favorable conditions must be created for citizens to work and live honestly.

On 3 November, the prime minister issued a directive urging various sectors and echelons to carry out various essential tasks to implement the government's program of action. The directive called for great efforts to eliminate corruption, smuggling, and waste. I suggest that all retired cadres and countrymen nationwide monitor the implementation of the government's program of action in their units and localities in accordance with this directive. They should expose crimes and report them to the higher echelons or ask mass media agencies to publicize them so that prompt action may be taken against the violators.

I am convinced that with the wholehearted support and assistance of people nationwide, the struggle against corruption, smuggling, waste, and other social vices will score ever greater achievements, thereby gradually purifying the various state administrative agencies and strengthening solidarity between thu people and state organizations.